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Near East & South Asia

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LD2911143988 [Editorial Report]

Further Arab Reaction to U.S. Visa Decision

The Arab group in the United Nations will formally request that the session on the Palestine question be transferred to Europe, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced at a Baghdad press conference reported by WAKH.

'Arafat held George Shultz personally responsible for the decision to refuse his entry visa, adding that the secretary of state was backed in this by former State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, who "sticks his nose behind Shultz."

The PLO leader noted that his latest talks with Jordan's King Husayn resulted in agreement on an Arab joint move to confront the U.S. decision.

He also warned that recent Palestinian moves are the "last chance for peace."

In Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressed "deep regret" over the U.S. decision, MENA reported, and he contended that 'Arafat's appearance at the United Nations "would not have caused the United States any problems."

Mubarak was speaking to reporters after unscheduled talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who had arrived unexpectedly in Cairo earlier on 28 November.

In a news conference prior to his departure, the Iraqi leader disclosed that he had not expected the U.S. decision on 'Arafat and he urged U.S. authorities to reconsider their position, MENA noted.

Among other Arab reaction, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent a message to Arab leaders urging them to sever relations with the United States in light of the U.S. decision, which he described as "the biggest insult the United States has ever directed against the Arabs," JANA reported.

A Tunisian Government statement viewed the U.S. decision on 'Arafat with "amazement and consternation," Tunis radio noted.

In Algiers, an official spokesman announced that the Algerian foreign minister has cancelled a planned trip to New York because of the U.S. decision, Algiers radio reported.

Although monitored Syrian media have still not carried any official statement on the issue, the Syrian foreign minister told Radio Monte Carlo that Syria was "not surprised" by the U.S. decision, which shows that making concessions and adopting a weak stand before the United States only leads to "negative results."

Without mentioning Syria by name, 'Arafat accused "an Arab country which has bad relations with the PLO and the Palestinian people" of sending terrorist groups to Europe to carry out attacks on Jewish civilian targets.

The PLO leader, who was speaking in a press interview cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine, noted that some members of these groups have already been arrested.

In Moscow, the U.S. decision on 'Arafat was condemned as "unconstructive and illegal" by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, TASS noted.

Algeria

Speaking at the opening session of the FLN 6th Congress on 27 November, President Chadli Bendjedid stressed the need for "frankness and openness," called for an end to "stagnation and rigidity" in the FLN, and criticized those in the administration, party, and legislature who have obstructed reforms.

In his speech, broadcast by Algiers television, Bendjedid also outlined some of the political and organizational reforms he is seeking.

These include: enhancing the powers of municipal and district councils; reinforcing "constitutional justice" by ensuring that judges are independent but accountable; establishing a constitutional council to resolve disputes of a constitutional nature; requiring that all persons in positions of public responsibility disclose details of their personal assets; and enacting a new law on the national press and media to encourage journalists to uncover "shortcomings" and write more credible reports.

He also stressed the need to begin a "responsible dialogue" within the FLN to formulate ideas on reforms within the National Charter.

The president ruled out any move toward a multi-party system under present circumstances, stressing that this would be "dangerous" for the nation and for national unity.

Nevertheless, he indicated that the issue of a multiplicity of parties will be submitted to the people when the internal situation improves and there is a "constructive dialogue" involving all patriotic forces.

Defending his use of the Army to end the riots in October, Bendjedid contended that the Armed Forces "rescued the nation from catastrophe and civil war."

He reaffirmed his opposition to the use of torture against suspects, but stressed that the rioters themselves committed "serious excesses against ordinary citizens," adding that "harsh measures" were therefore needed to confront the situation.

Algiers radio subsequently carried live coverage of the Congress' proceedings during which Bendjedid was elected as FLN chairman and was nominated to run again as president in elections on 22 December.

He accepted this renewal of confidence in a concluding speech to the Congress.

The radio noted that the Congress also approved a new 155-member Central Committee.

Afghanistan

A Pakistani press report cited by XINHUA and other news agencies stated that the Soviet Union will hold peace talks with the Afghan seven-party resistance alliance in Saudi Arabia shortly.

THE FRONTIER POST, published in Peshawar, asserted that the USSR delegation will be headed by Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet ambassador to Kabul, while the resistance delegation will include Burhanuddin Rabbani, chairman of the alliance, as well as several mujahidin faction leaders.

Observers cited by XINHUA said the holding of such talks can be considered a victory for the resistance, which has consistently refused negotiations with the Kabul regime and called for direct talks with the Soviets.

An adviser to Rabbani subsequently confirmed that a meeting between Soviet and mujahidin representatives will take place shortly but said the location is still under discussion, AFP noted.

Pakistan

The Islamabad daily NAWA-I WAQT reported that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has decided to appoint Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto as prime minister, according to AFP.

A Delhi television report disclosed that the PPP and its allies are only three seats short of a parliamentary majority.

Meanwhile, the chief election commissioner announced that the new president will be elected on 12 December, Islamabad radio reported.

The election is held in an electoral college comprising the National Assembly, the Senate, and provincial assemblies.

Iran

Internal Affairs—A special religious court confirmed that six "pseudo-ulema" were executed in November on charges that included forming "corrupt bands," corrupting a number of individuals, deep moral and financial corruption, insulting Islamic sanctities, and committing acts against the code of the clergy, IRNA reported.

The six executed clergymen included Fathollah Omid Najafabadi.

Three other people were also executed in connection with the same charges.

In remarks cited by Tehran radio, the information minister dismissed foreign media reports on the executions as "propaganda and ploys."

In another development, IRNA cited a disclosure by the interior minister that a number of suspects have been arrested in connection with the recent murder of former Health Minister Dr Kazem Sami.

Genscher Visit—Visiting FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held separate talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, President 'Ali Khamene'i, and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, according to IRNA.

Hamburg's DIE WELT noted that Genscher's discussions with Iranian leaders focused on possibilities for FRG firms to participate in Iran's reconstruction.

Israel

Alignment ministers agreed that negotiations with the Likud on a broad-based government should begin, IDF radio reported.

The decision followed further talks between Alignment and Likud leaders in which Likud proposed that the Alignment should retain the foreign affairs and defense portfolios, but that Likud should have one more minister than the Alignment, according to Jerusalem radio.

In the territories, IDF forces wounded 2 rioters and demolished 10 houses belonging to members of "terrorist squads," IDF radio reported.

Lebanon

Damascus radio announced that West Beirut and the southern suburb were calm after Syrian forces intensified their presence and "stormed" a number of places in search of weapons.

According to Syrian sources cited by Beirut radio, Syrian forces have arrested around 300 gunmen and they intend to eliminate all shows of force, except in the area of the contact lines with East Beirut.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has decided to hold talks with Amal and Hizballah officials to force them to conclude a political agreement, the radio added.

Libya-Chad

Chadian Armed Forces shot down a Libyan Marchetti aircraft which overflew their positions in the Tibesti region 28 November, Ndjamena radio announced.

The two pilots were captured.

Despite this incident, Chad will spare no efforts to maintain the new climate of dialogue between the two countries, the radio stressed.

Palestinian Affairs

Further on Reaction to 'Arafat Visa Denial

'Arafat on Visa Denial

JN2811192588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has declared that the Arab group in the United Nations will today or tomorrow formally request that the Palestine question discussions be transferred to Europe.

'Arafat today told a press conference in Baghdad that the Jordanian representative who currently chairs the Arab group will make this request as soon as his contacts with the legal committee and the special committee on the headquarters agreement of the international community are finished.

'Arafat did not specify the place where these talks, which were supposed to start tomorrow in New York, would be moved to. He said: We have no objection to holding the meetings at the UN headquarters in either Geneva or Vienna.

In this, 'Arafat was commenting on the U.S. Administration's refusal to grant him an entry visa to deliver a speech in front of the UN General Assembly.

'Arafat, who arrived in Baghdad earlier today, described the talks he held with the Jordanian monarch King Husayn as very positive, constructive, and successful. He said they included the joint Palestinian, Jordanian, and Arab steps to continue the push which was started by the PNC resolutions in Algiers on the Palestinian and international levels, alongside the development and revival of the channels of support for the popular uprising in occupied Palestine in all means and ways.

The talks with King Husayn included agreeing on an Arab joint move to confront the latest U.S. decision.

Mr 'Arafat stressed that the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' decision represents a flagrant violation of international norms, including the headquarters agreements signed by the United Nations and the United States.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman, in the answers he gave, ruled out that there was any difficulty in moving the special discussions on the question of Palestine to Europe.

He said: Everything indicates that there is no special problem in making such a decision especially after world sympathy toward the Palestine question in confronting this fanaticism and flagrant violation of international norms and regulations.

He added: The information which has reached the PLO indicates that the person who basically stuck to the decision of denying the entry visa—which is a strange and illegal decision—was U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who revealed his low bias toward Israel generally, and Yitzhaq Shamir specifically.

'Arafat continued: Now, the world can see why the issue of peace in the Middle East did not make any progress despite the agreement reached by the two superpowers to solve the hot issues in the world, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

In answer to a question on whether the PLO considers the last U.S. decision to represent a rejection of the PNC resolutions on the United States' part, 'Arafat said that the decision on the entry visa is Shultz' decision and the worst commentator on the PNC resolutions was Abraham Sofaer, who used to be the legal adviser of the U.S. State Department and who sticks his nose behind Shultz, and behind the two of them is Yitzaq Shamir in all the U.S. State Department's decisions dealing with the Middle East.

He pointed out that he was not surprised at the U.S. decision to deny him an entry visa to New York. He said: I expected this decision from Shultz.

In answer to a question on the possibility of the new U.S. Administration changing its stand from the Palestine question, the Palestinian leader said: We have to wait and see if the new administration will take a step toward the Palestine question.

'Arafat emphasized that he refused to involve himself in the U.S. presidential elections and said: I have refused this notwithstanding the Democrats' pressure on me to divulge the names of the Republicans who got in touch with me over the secrets of the American hostages in Iran.

'Arafat added: I was a mediator in this issue and managed to secure the release of a number of American hostages in the first days of the hostage crisis.

Mr 'Arafat would not be drawn on further information or details about those contacts and whether those who got in touch with him are now in the U.S. Administration.

He expressed the hope that a response will be forthcoming from President-elect George Bush to the letter 'Arafat had sent him at the opening of the PNC session in Algiers in the middle of this month. 'Arafat said he realized that this will not take place now but after the incoming president takes office.

The PLO chief stressed that the recent Palestinian moves are the last chance for peace and added: I have said: We are holding out the olive branch for peace, but there is no reason why I will not go back to tell the PNC this is pointless.

He emphasized that he has the guts and capability to do that and added: We took this initiative from a position of strength and not from a position of weakness.

The Palestinian leader recalled Lebanese developments when the U.S. Administration, most of all George Shultz, backpedaled on all their promises to the Palestinians once they quit Lebanon.

'Arafat rejected claims that the PLO has refused to renounce terrorism and explicitly recognize Resolution No 242 and said: The [PNC] resolutions are clear and a good many Western allies of the United States including Margaret Thatcher perceived them as constructive and positive. He added: These claims can best be refuted by official Western utterances including inside the United States concerning the Palestinian moves.

He cited Bush's initial reaction and then Reagan's who subsequently backed out as evidenced by the notorious statement of the U.S. State Department, as he put it. 'Arafat called Reagan's retreat disgraceful and said the American people must do something about this contradiction.

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied land which enters its 2d year in a few days, 'Arafat declared, will continue until all its aims are realized. He said the uprising is the greatest modern phenomenon in the history of the struggle against colonialism; the Palestinian David armed with a sling and stone is pitted against the fortified Israeli Goliath heavily armed with the most up-to-date American weapons.

'Arafat recalled an arrogant statement made by Yitzhaq Rabin in December 1987 at the American Brookings Institute that he would quell the uprising in 2 days when he returned to Israel. The Palestinian leader recalled Rabin's words that the uprising was mere rioting by mobs.

'Arafat added: I dared him to make good his threat in 2 years. And now here we are with the uprising entering its 2d year in the face of all of Israel's repressive, savage measures against our people.

Visa Refusal 'Gross Error'

JN2811153688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Nov 88 p 1, 17

[By Jamal al-'Alawi]

[Text] Amman—Bassam Abu Sharif, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, said that talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Mr 'Arafat will cover all Arab issues because Jordan and Palestine play a special role in the struggle with the Zionist enemy and in the front of steadfastness in the face of Zionist aggression and expansionism.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, he added: It is natural that His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat discuss Arab concerns to overcome all the existing obstacles facing the entrenchment and deepening of Arab solidarity to continue the political achievements of our Arab nation, especially those achieved by our Palestinian people through their heroic uprising which is continuing in the face of the occupation.

He said: Holding the Arab summit is one of these important issues concerning the continuation of the political battle to establish the independent Palestinian state after the occupation is kicked out from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He indicated that the close cooperation between the PLO and Jordan, to a great extent, will facilitate the solution of all the problems which might stand in the face of the Arab political working plan.

He said: We have no doubt that the stage after the PNC resolutions in Algiers is the more difficult stage because it is the last quarter-hour stage. It is the stage where we are confronting all the enemy's oppressive and fascist measures and schemes to assassinate and kill in an attempt to prevent the wheel of history from continuing its march forward. We are positive that the more stubborn the enemy gets, the easier it is to break.

Abu Sharif affirmed that the international conference will definitely take place under the canopy of international accord and the will of the international community and in light of the continuing heroic uprising of our people. It is definite that the international conference will convene despite the extreme and fanatical Israeli stands. It will convene and we hope sometime next year.

Abu Sharif said that George Shultz' refusal to grant Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] an entry visa is a stand that indicates anew and clearly the aggressive stands toward the Palestinian people taken by Shultz since he came to power in the U.S. State Department.

He said that the United States has committed a gross error. He replied to U.S. accusations that Yasir 'Arafat is a terrorist saying: Yasir 'Arafat is a terrorist as much as George Washington, the hero of U.S. independence, was a terrorist.

He said: This shows that the U.S. Government blindly supports the Israeli occupation of our land, Palestine. He added: This is a clear encouragement for the fanatical extremists currently making the decisions in Israel.

Abu Sharif affirmed that the battle is not over yet and that the PLO has many friends in the United Nations. We will continue with this issue until we realize justice.

He said: The U.S. decision represents a violation of the headquarters agreement between the United Nations and the United States which stipulates that the U.S.

Government has no right to forbid any member or observer of the United Nations from traveling to New York to deliver a speech in front of this international body which represents the peoples of the world.

In this way, the issue has been transformed into an issue between the United States and the United Nations, where UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is supposed to follow up this issue since he is the secretary general of the United Nations, the one who defends its charters and agreements held between it and the United States or other nations.

He said: Shultz' decision is not a formal decision which deals with legal or procedural measures. It is a decision which has political implications representing the bias toward the occupation and Israel. It is an encouragement for Israel to continue its organized terrorist and oppressive campaigns against our people in the Palestinian Bank and Gaza Strip.

We believe this decision is a new challenge for our Arab nation which is supposed to stand as one man in the face of this stubborness represented by Shultz' refusal to grant Mr 'Arafat a visa.

U.S. 'Fabrications' Viewed

JN2911072088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1854 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: Washington can make whatever fuss and noise it wishes against the Palestinian approach, accuse it of ambiguity and insufficiency, and repeat the same bad tune about Palestinian noncredibility, Palestinian terrorism, and Palestinian [word indistinct].

We do not believe that Washington does not know that the time has gone forever when such allegations and fabrications are believed by anyone. Vis-a-vis the clarity and credibility of the Palestinian approach, Washington's task of marketing the same fabrications becomes difficult. Rather, it becomes ridiculous and calls for disrespect.

It is shameful for a superpower to adhere to exposed lies against substantial facts which are impossible to ignore or confront through false allegations.

However, we can affirm that Washington does well to prove by itself that it is directly leading the struggle against the Palestinians and their just, inalienable, and legitimate national and human rights, which enjoy sweeping international support.

The question remains whether it is in the interest of world peace and stability and of the future of mankind that a superpower—like the United States—deals with lies, fabrications, and falsification and stands with all its might against a tiny people and their national and human rights—a people whose only weapon is their will and faith in their right to live as a free, respected, and independent nation within an independent state.

Of course, we know that history is not moved by justice or truth alone. Therefore, we excelled in armed struggle and achieved the miracle of the great popular revolution represented by the uprising and promoted it with unique heroic action. Friends and foes in the world have been captivated by our people's use of stones as a sign of our people's deep determination to wrench their freedom and independence.

Because we believe in this, we continue to move the historical process through our strong militant action and through the justice and truthfulness of our national cause. Therefore, victory will inevitably be ours.

'Arab Country' Sending Terrorists to Europe

LD2811194388 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] stressed that an Arab country which has bad relations with the PLO and the Palestinian people has sent terrorist groups to Europe to carry out attacks on civilian targets including a Jewish synagogue at a time when I was supposed to be delivering a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

He added in a statement published yesterday by the Kuwaiti AL-SIYASAH that many members belonging to these groups have been arrested.

Brother Abu 'Ammar was answering a question by the newspaper about news concerning the infiltration of groups to Europe to carry out attacks. The newspaper said the aim behind these attacks was to cause Europe to delay its recognition of the independent Palestinian state.

PFLP-GC Criticizes Soviet Emigration Policy

NC2911084588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The PFLP-GC in Damascus has criticized the Soviet Union's policy supporting the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. In a statement distributed in the Syrian capital yesterday, the front said its leader Ahmad Jibril has asked the Soviets to reconsider this policy, which harms the Palestinian people.

The statement notes the Arab people's deep concern over the Soviet policy, which exerts pressure on Palestinian Communist elements to compel them to recognize the Zionist state.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Official on Production Agreement

LD2811175388 Vienna OPECNA in English 1535 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov. 88 (OPECNA)—The production agreement signed here today by all 13 member countries of OPEC will have a "positive effect" on the oil market, OPEC conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman told newsmen this afternoon.

Under the agreement, OPEC production in the first half of next year has been set at 18.50 million b/d [barrels per day].

Lukman said in answer to a question that the 18 dollar reference price would not take very long to reach if there was adherence to the agreement by all signatories.

He noted that between now and the end of December, member countries would gradually reduce their production so as to firmly put the new agreement in place.

Asked about the United Arab Emirates, the OPEC president said OPEC was hopeful of adherence.

On the reinstatement of member countries, representatives for the production monitoring role, Lukman said the group would examine data, in addition to considering secondary sources.

He said OPEC reserved the right to use independent auditors for re-checking, noting that in the past, the system had worked well.

"From the practical point of view, it is better to do it yourself and then use independent auditors as a countercheck," the OPEC president declared.

Answering another question, Lukman told newsmen that "the Iraqi issue has been resolved".

Asked how OPEC intended to deal with possible violations in future, the president said with all member countries now having their individual output levels, monitoring would be "much easier", adding that "violations will be dealt with religiously".

He declined to state what would constitute a "major violation", saying "this will be determined by the ministerial monitoring committee".

On non-OPEC cooperation, OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said the organization would soon contact non-OPEC producers officially, noting that a ministerial committee of six had been established for this purpose, as indicated in the final communique.

Iraqi Minister 'Happy' To Return to Agreement

JN2811213088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said: We are happy to return to the OPEC agreement which was signed by all of the 13 member states.

In a press conference held here today, he stressed the importance of commitment by all member states to the articles of the agreement in order to support the world oil market.

He pointed out that all OPEC states support the objective of a basic price of $18 per barrel. He explained that the non-OPEC states are responsible for participating in the stability of the world oil market.

He said: We obtained the quota which we demanded and we are pleased with this. He described the conference outcome as a victory for OPEC. The minister expressed hope that oil prices will be $18 per barrel in March.

South Asian Regional Affairs

ECO Plans Telecommunications Satellite

LD2611162388 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], formed by Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran, is studying a plan to send a satellite into space to boost telecommunication contacts between the three states.

The satellite project, Ecosat, was announced in a meeting Saturday between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, members of ECO's Secretariat in Tehran and Pakistani and Turkish ambassadors.

It was also announced that the three foreign ministers will hold joint talks on issues concerning the organization in Tehran early in the next Iranian year (starts March 21).

The organization was formed by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey in 1964 to coordinate joint economic activities between the three member states.

Its activities was suspended after the Islamic revolution but resumed following Iran's initiative several years later.

ECO is now studying the expansion and improvement of roads and railroads, ports and telecommunications between the three countries, as well as establishment of a joint shipping line and a joint bank with a starting capital of $300 million.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Cancels Trip to New York

LD2811141988 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A spokesman for the Algerian Foreign Ministry has told APS that Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh has cancelled his trip to New York where he was due to take part in the proceedings of the UN General Assembly on Palestine because of the U.S. Government's refusal to grant an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The spokesman also indicated that Hocine Djoudi, Algeria's permanent delegate to the United Nations, who is currently participating in the proceedings of the Sixth FLN Congress, will soon return to his post in New York and that he will be carrying instructions to contribute to the collective action of the Arab group with a view to taking appropriate measures concerning the agenda and the progress of the UN General Assembly discussions on the Palestinian issue.

Further Reportage on Sixth FLN Congress

Regional Reports Read

LD2711204688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The FLN party conference began this morning and continued into the afternoon in a second session. Our correspondent reports:

The afternoon session of the 1st day of the party's sixth conference was devoted to reports of regional conferences of Oran, Constantine, Tipaza, Tiaret, and Batna. The reports unanimously rejected any attempt to harm the unity of the people and its cohesiveness and urged the people to stand firmly in the face of any attempt to infringe on the constancy of the identity of the Algerian people.

The reports also stressed the need to combat and remove the opportunist elements that have infiltrated into the structure of the FLN and pointed out the need to be firm in selecting officials. All the regional conferences reports affirmed their rejection of multipartism, while giving a fresh momentum to the FLN.

In addition, the reports centered on the following points: principles, the human elements of the party, membership, the right, and duties of militants, commitment, ways of action and general structures, candidacy committees and their way of action, discipline, coordination and the basic strength of the revolution, decentralization and methods of control, people's councils, the role of party information and political and ideological training, the role of Algeria in the foreign arena, in addition to development-related issues pertaining to general budgets and national economic organization, social budgets and employment policy, the growth of human potential, reinforcing the democratization process of development, strengthening the sectors of agriculture, irrigation, maritime fishing, industry, urban construction, housing, fundamental structures, information, and the social and educational sectors.

A report concerning the National People's Army was also read, which stressed that the Army will remain the protective shield of national unity and of the country and on the side of legitimacy just as it did during last October's events. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Addresses Congress

LD2811085088 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Speech by President Chadli Bendjedid to the Sixth FLN Congress on 27 November in Algiers—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate. Militant brothers, brother conferees:

It gives me pleasure to stand before you today 5 years after you first put me in office as FLN secretary general. It is both an honor and a responsibility, which I appreciate. I also appreciate the confidence of the Liberation Front's militants in entrusting me with this task. Today it is my turn to address you.

Before anything else, I would like to put the mission which you have given me these past 5 years before our esteemed congress. I would also like to explain developments in the situation, the situation of the Algerian state in the broad sense: in the economic, social, and political fields.

This 5-year period has been full of achievements and various activities in various fields but also the problems, troubles, and deficiencies. So I will be frank with you, because today we are in an era of frankness and openness. It is an era of frankness within the framework of democracy because I believe in that and because it is part of the Algerian Republic: The Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

We want to give this concept or this noble name what it deserves and implement it in practice. This is what prompted us to propose some political and other organizational methods, and we will touch on these later.

All people express their opinions, and they have the right to do so. I in turn have the right to say whatever I believe in and feel so that I can convey it to the FLN militants in this hall, in the wilayas [provinces] of the Republic, and ultimately to our people who have placed their confidence in us and pinned their hopes on us. With God's assistance, we will make every effort possible to faithfully fulfill the trust despite the difficulties and various contradictions here and there.

It is my belief that we have made great efforts in national development. None of us has the right to belittle the efforts of this nation's sons regarding achievements in various fields, despite the financial difficulties and climate, the economic crisis and climate in general. I am not referring to details of the achievements and quoted figures.

I want only to comment on the basic issues—the issues of the hour—proceeding from the fifth congress to the enrichment of the National Charter, to the discussion by citizens, to the observations made by militants and compatriots in the discussion on the enrichment of the National Charter, as well as the shortcomings and defects and the wishes of the popular and militant base by way of discussing our affairs and dealing with the various shortcomings.

This is what made me think—proceeding from the Fifth Congress and the economic resolutions of the Fifth Congress and the Central Committee—and the recommendations are quite clear in this respect—on controlling and introducing the necessary changes to control the management of our affairs. I took all this into consideration. I also took into consideration the interventions made by the militants and the compatriots when the enrichment of the National Charter was being carried out.

I took into consideration too—alright, we are officials but it is inevitable that we should take into consideration by virtue of the office—the aspirations and hopes of the militant and popular base. This led me to take some measures with regard to the economic reforms.

We tried in 1980—or 1981-82—to remedy our economic situation by restructuring and building establishments, as well as increasing their volume. One day I expressed my opinion and said that they have become more of a head than a body, that is to say we take care of the central administration and strengthening the offices at the expense of field production. We noted that the officials in central administration numbered more than the internationally accepted figure with regard to economic concepts. This led us to the purification—at least—of the climate with regard to the first phase.

But following the Fifth Congress and after the enrichment of the National Charter and the interventions by all the militants and the faithful sons of the nation—I took all this into consideration and asked...[Bendjedid changes thought] I say this openly today before you; it is inevitable that we should speak openly. You know that I do not flatter: If something is black, I call it black and if something is white, I call it white.

We cannot say [applause] that this is grey or this is—I do not know—another color. I cannot say that because responsibility and conscience do not allow me to falsify matters before you. You know that I did not come to the seat of power for the sake of power or influence. I came with you—with all the faithful militants—to this nation to try to improve our situation and control our affairs; no more and no less. I said this on several occasions. I am not attracted by power. [applause]

Yesterday I said before the Central Committee that I would tell the congress the reasons why I, as FLN secretary general and president of the Republic—and this is my right constitutionally as FLN secretary general—[applause] I took these measures. I am not used to saying that others are responsible and not myself. This is because I have heard this tune many times. When things are fine, people stress the positive; but when things are bad, they say the mistakes were made by those above.

I mean those who have some sense of decency do not say that the reason is the president of the Republic or the secretary general but say those above, bearing in mind that we have laws—as if this country has no laws—there are laws; the issues are quite clear. All right, what do I say? Do I point my finger to those below and tell them or raise my finger to say that that was an act of God? No, God forbid; I do not do that. [applause] I shoulder my responsibility fully.

I asked all the bodies... [Bendjedid changes thought] I did not say this on other occasions but I say it now because everyone is here. All officials at the level of the party, the state, the legislative bodies, mass organizations, and the Armed Forces are present. Therefore, today—even I say it without exaggeration—I say that I have asked the executive bodies to think about tackling our situation and make a proposal to the president and the FLN secretary general on bringing the situation under control.

I have used the phrase several times: We have come to power not just to run affairs but also to reform affairs. I said you have to be frank with me and have political courage. I always say that we have political courage when the matter concerns recognizing reality and existing failings; we must take the necessary measures in the interest of the revolution and the nation.

Unfortunately, there was no response. Well, I would say that I am the one who is first responsible. I would not say the government, but I am the one who is responsible or the executive body. Unfortunately—and I say this in front of you—there was no enthusiasm for enriching the National Charter. I believe in legality. I do not want to change or reform matters and reverse the law and possibly impose my view in other means; but I want the law to be the master in this state and country.

But the 1976 Charter was drawn up under special circumstances. It was not [words indistinct]. It did not give us the freedom to maneuver in the economic field; this may be all right in political or ideological areas. All the reforms are organizational; no more or less. They have no connection with the ideological or the political subject or the basic options. [applause]

Unfortunately, some people began to distort things. They said that the projects which have been advanced were not socialist and questioned the position of the National Charter. I said we will talk about this subject later. I even asked the bodies concerned about the National Charter.

A number of brother officials' told me there was no need to uncover these problems; just leave matters as they were. I said no; I would like to do something, and I would like it to be done in the open. The response on enriching the National Charter was a responsible one, whether from the party's grassroots or from the Algerian people as a whole. Thus, the National Charter gained the necessary flexibility needed by the executive to reform matters as far as the management and the economy were concerned.

Therefore, when political courage to confront the economic situation dwindled I personally shouldered my responsibility because I knew that whenever a crisis occurs I am the one who should bear responsibility in front of you as well as the Algerian people.

I am ready to be held accountable for anything in front of the militants' and in front of the Algerian people. I am ready to bear complete responsibility. But to use some unknown concepts, to become stagnant, or to shut oneself behind closed doors—and there are people who wanted to close the door to interpretation [ijtihad]—well, when the day of accountability comes I will be the one who is responsible.

Therefore, I wanted to shoulder complete responsibility and I took the initiative to set up working groups composed of cadres faithful to this nation. I drew up the Central Committee resolution on the economy and ways to control it and proposed the draft economic reform to the government, which the latter adopted and put before the National People's Assembly.

Here I would like to say, with sincerity and frankness, something about the reforms which were put before the National People's Assembly. It seems to me ready to open this country's door to foreigners, to the highest bidder, as they did not have any national zeal at all for this Algerian state and this Algerian nation.

There were some people who wanted to engage in oneupmanship when it came to dealing with others, as if we were competing with the regime. There were also some people who wanted to engage in oneupmanship with the FLN. We have fought. Our weapons were in our hands under the slogan of the National Liberation Army and National Liberation Front. We have fought for the well-being of this nation under the slogan of the National Liberation Front.

The FLN honored us until we reached this high office of the Algerian state. However, we do not want to use emotions to stir the FLN from inertia and so-called principles.

Therefore, we return to the subject. I already said that I have shouldered my responsibility. We put forward reform projects to the National People's Assembly and I say it quite frankly: The National People's Assembly is not an inferior structure; it is not merely a rubber stamp. I say it quite frankly. The documents are available. The meetings are recorded. Things are written in documents and quite frankly I encouraged the National People's Assembly to hold a debate and dialogue with the government.

Although under the Constitution I am the head of government, I sent the government to sit with the National People's Assembly and I said that the assembly should have the powers to debate. It does not just exist to ratify things.

You have noticed that quite a few laws were put forward and, unfortunately, in some cases they were stripped of any real content; Therefore, they left no room for maneuver for the government or the executive. However, we believe in this; this is the responsibility of the National People's Assembly. It has the right to do so. I have mentioned it just as an example and to remind people and nothing else. There are some people who say that the past was something and today it is something else.

I believe in reforms. But we must not reduce or belittle the will and the wish of the leadership in this connection; it should be given complete powers to debate draft laws.

Brother officials are present here, as well as members of the National People's Assembly. I sent an official message to the National People's Assembly asking it to divide into committees and then go into the field to supervise the interests of the national economy. [applause]

By this I mean I wanted to explain my concern and interest in giving all legitimate institutions in Algeria responsibility—and even more than they had asked me for—in other words, I have delegated some of my duties as president to some other authorities. Here I must speak the truth and I do not intend to accuse the National People's Assembly, God forbid. The Assembly has provided the government or the executive with great assistance. Understanding prevailed between the two institutions and I do not intend to smear the Assembly.

However, I would like to say that there were laws put forward in the National People's Assembly, and out of my concern to maintain the freedom of decision of the National People's Assembly, I did not blame it [for passing laws] but I wanted to tell the truth, no more and no less. However, when there is an assessment of the situation tomorrow, each will shoulder his responsibility. If someone asks why we did not do so and so we will answer: It is because the law prevented us. Who passed the law? It is the National People's Assembly.

I have said that I shouldered my full responsibility and put forward proposals for reform. Why economic reform? What are the reasons? All of you know them;

however, I would like to give you a brief picture of the circumstances and difficulties which Algeria experienced recently, particularly from the end of 1985 and the beginning of 1986 when matters became critical: hard currency revenue began to fall, the prices of gas and oil fell, and the economic crisis began to affect Algeria.

Economic growth began to fall and unfortunately the only thing prospering was demographic growth; it recorded a higher level of growth than economic growth. Economic growth in certain sectors was less than 3 [unit not specified].

These are all facts and brother compatriots and activists should now all the facts. Based on all this and based on the resolutions of the fifth congress and the Central Committee on controlling the economic situation, we have taken the necessary measures and we began the financial restructuring of economic institutions, and I am not talking about the agricultural side. It was assessed that national institutions' budget deficit for 1984-1987 was 110 billion Algerian dinars.

Based on this assessment the political leadership decided to support those institutions with money from the state budget. The state budget provided 40 billion Algeria dinars to help the national institutions reduce their huge deficit.

Today without exaggeration and without flattery—in fact figures alone can speak—out of 400 economic or industrial establishments there are only 70 whose financial situation somewhat balanced while the remainder have financial deficits; the establishments—with regard to their real capacities—are run at 25-60 percent of their output capacity. It is inevitable, brothers, that you should know that the burden is not easy; the burden is heavy when you know the facts.

Four hundred establishments: only 70 balanced budgets, while the rest suffer financial deficits and are still incapable of controlling their operations and of using their required capacity except to the level of 25-60 percent. This naturally is entirely due to inflation and consumer goods subsidies which ultimately lead to more inflation. These are the figures for 1984-87. When we evaluate the end of 1988 it is expected that the financial deficit of the national establishments will be more than this figure. This is the fact. Despite this—and we say this with every bitterness because we spoke loudly in previous years about the distribution of profits—something I said in previous years and I criticized this concept and this false hope given to our people and to our workers; we distributed profits on this basis.

The same problem exists with regard to the agricultural sector. All the farms have financial deficits and by the end of the year we distribute profits. By God, brothers, man should account for his deeds to his own conscience when man uses a little of popularity and demagogy to win the people's sympathy at the expense of the state, this poor state. When the matter concerns material gains we all demand and demand, and when the matter concerns the state or the milking cow we do not see anyone defending it solidly and saying no to this demagogy; no in defense of the economy; they let the nation go to hell with such behavior and this method of management.

Concerning the agricultural sector, I had been also convinced of the need to introduce fundamental reforms into the agricultural sector. Likewise, I am saying this before you: I am responsible for all shortcomings in various reforms. I am responsible for them. To be clear before you, I say: I shouldered responsibility at a time when, perhaps, there was not enough political responsibility.

When we undertake a reform, it may be understood as a retreat on certain gains and principles. People perhaps shy away, but at my post I have assumed my responsibility. I cannot assumed my responsibility, and I march before you, before the militants and before the nation, saying: Circusmtances have made me introduce some reforms into the management of the national economy.

The day we began assessing the agricultural sector, we found a deficit of 15 billion dinars in various farming sectors, 15 billion dinars. We decided to reform, and the state will take this deficit upon itself, i.e. the state fund will deal with it and bear the burden of 15 billion dinars without any repayments. All we want is to conclude the operation. The Central Committee decided this. Let's put the brothers in the picture.

When we assessed the agricultural situation and put before the Central Committee the farming sector's economic situation, it was decided then to make the state bear, or to make the state fund compensate for this sum, free of charge. And when we concluded the operation this year, at the beginning of this year, we found 2 billion dinars more of deficit. This means that erasing all of the agricultural sector's debts cost us 17 billion dinars. But I believe that what matters is that those concerned will be happy about the process of clearing the agricultural situation.

When farmers are happy, then we, as a political leadership, will have happy consciences and will also be happy from the moral and political point of view.

The same subject concerns the economic reforms. When we proposed the program of the so-called independence of the economic institutions, we found that the workers were greatly satisfied with these measures and reforms. Since the workers were satisfied, the political leadership was also morally satisfied with the political decision, because it was in the service of the state, in the service of the national economy, and in the service of the workers. This was, moreover, one of the demands the workers had for many years. These were the reasons which prompted us to take the necessary measures and introduce reforms in the economic field in the general sense of the term.

Furthermore, in addition to what I have already mentioned as well as the deficit here and there in the various economic sectors, there is the burden of indebtedness. I have tried on many occasions to avoid mentioning indebtedness. However, on this occasion, we are asserting openness and clarity in management as well as the fact that responsibility should be shouldered by everybody. I am also mentioning it out of our awareness that with our economic situation, everyone—the executive, the judiciary, and the party—should shoulder its responsibility.

Therefore, their stances, analyses, and laws should, stem from the nation's real situation.

I said I have avoided mentioning indebtedness, but today, on this occasion, as I am asserting openness and clarity, I have to say I have nothing to hide. I am going to inform you frankly on the developments witnessed by the country's indebtedness. In 1970 Algeria's indebtedness was exactly $1 billion—To be clear, I am going to use dollars—in 1970 Algeria had an indebtedness of $1 billion. From 1970 to 1980 it reached $16 billion, i.e. the indebtedness grew 16-fold since 1970. These are well established figures, and every brother official can check them at the Finance Ministry and the Planning Ministry. There figures are not mine; I got them from the officials concerned.

So our effort to repay the debts begins. I have repeatedly said, particularly at the Extraordinary Congress of 1980, that we were going to deal with the problem of repaying the debts during the eighties, and consequently the state's burden to provide foodstuff and raw materials for affected factories. Therefore, to repay the debts, all brothers should contribute if we have to introduce austerity measures; all brothers should understand that we had no other way out. So in 1980 we had debts of $16 billion. We tried from 1980 to 1986 to reduce the amount from $16 to $13.6 billion.

It means that despite all this effort we have reduced the debt. However, from 1986 to 1988, and for the reasons I have just mentioned—the fall in the prices of oil and gas and the fall in the dollar, the economic crisis, and many other factors, demographic growth, national production not being up to the required level—the hopes and aspirations which we pinned on the national sector led to a return to indebtedness which, in hard figures amounts to $19 billion.

This is the fact about the debt and developments surrounding the Algerian debt. This is to put you brother militants in the picture; and I gave a pledge not to hide anything because this is an issue which concerns everybody. Therefore, I have to be clear and open and bear full responsibility.

This concerns the real reasons which led to us take the necessary measures concerning economic reforms—economic reforms in their broad sense whether in the agricultural or in the industrial sector. I have shouldered my full responsibility, and in view of all the developments and proceeding from the worries of militant and citizens through the debate on enriching the charter and through the various meetings and through the events which took place here and there, I reached the conclusion after the fifth congress that there is a need to pay attention in the first place to economic reforms to be completed together with political reforms because we cannot conduct political reforms without convening a congress because these things are linked. The national charter, the Constitution, and the basic statute of the party are all linked to one another. There are provisions which refer to one another.

As I have said, I believe in legality. I want to do everything within the framework of the law. I want to commit myself, all the officials, and consequently the Algerian nation to respecting the law.

We began to prepare the atmosphere. After I spoke and evaluated the state of the nation to the National People's Assembly in 1987, I was clear. But maybe they regarded this as an exercise in delivering speeches and nothing else. For me, if I say anything I believe in what I say. If I do not believe in something I do not say it. For this reason I spoke about democracy among the militants in the FLN party from the outset. When we talk about democracy we begin with ourselves as militants. We apply it to ourselves and to others. [applause]

I said that one must think about evaluating our situation generally and about taking the necessary measures to develop our frameworks according to the needs and aspirations of the ascending generation instead of imposing on it that it should live like we lived in the past. I said that one must introduce reforms, and I spoke of this at meetings at the beginning of this year. And when I spoke on 19 September, before the events, I pointed out—without mentioning political reforms—that there are economic reforms, and they embrace all the sectors in the economic field, and there are other reforms. I spoke about the educational side and about training and said that there are other reforms.

This is because I believed that the time had not come to announce the political reforms because the time was not right and the date of the congress was fixed for December. Then, this is what led me to talk about introducing the political reforms generally and [word indistinct].

I began with the executive body. The brothers may say that circumstances have forced us to carry out this operation. I say quite frankly; I do not believe in doing anything under pressure. Even if I was convinced of it, I am not prepared to do it under pressure. [applause] However, circumstances were such that we had to announce these reforms. As I said, I shouldered my responsibility by virtue of the constitution and believed that I should introduce reforms to the executive body. I began with myself.

I began with myself because these were powers granted to me as a president of the Republic. But my belief and conviction and the interest of the country and the interest of the nation required that we must not be selfish. I relinquished them to promote effectiveness and clarity in running affairs so as to narrow down responsibilities [as heard] because people in the past (? did not apportion) responsibility. Or they would say they had (? no orders from higher up). Today we want everyone to shoulder his responsibility within the framework of the law.

We should give the people the task of supervising their own affairs through their representatives. This is what led me to introduce the reforms or the draft reform projects which I submitted to the people. The Algerian people were fully responsive to the executive body and its responsibility before the National People's Assembly.

I said in front of the brothers—even before the incidents—the brother officials and the officials of the National People's Assembly—that we do not want to embarrass the brother deputies, because on account of friendship and brotherhood the brothers may feel embarrassed and not tackle the subject because they would say that the president of the Republic is the head of government.

The point of keeping faith with the credibility of the regime is that we must let everyone shoulder his full responsibility. And this is what led me to give the National People's Assembly its full and clear powers as a representative of its electors, namely the people, and also give the executive body the necessary powers and its responsibility toward the National People's Assembly. Thus, all this emanates from the desire and the long evaluation which began some years ago and in particular since 1986-87.

As for the proposed reforms to be introduced into the constitution of the party, perhaps some brothers spoke—they have the right to do so as everyone has the right to speak but I too have the right to speak and clarify matters proceeding from the first experiment—on the basis of the suggestion and insistence to submit responsible reforms in the economic field. But regrettably I did not find any response. The same can be said with regard to the various reforms in other fields. I shouldered my responsibility too and said, as secretary general of the FLN party, that I have the right to submit to the congress a proposal to be put to the vote.

Through long experience and out of my concern for the FLN—because of this stagnation and rigidity—the FLN, the symbol of sovereignty and of the liberation of the Algerian people—we all used to struggle under the slogan of the FLN—will destroy. [sentence as heard] We do not want the FLN to remain inward looking. We do not want to defend things which in actual fact have been overtaken by events. I say quite frankly to you that I have submitted this proposal and gave the militants more than 1 month when I submitted this proposal. This proposal can be studied at various levels by the militants so that they can come and express their views quite clearly. The congress is free to accept or reject this proposal—this is your responsibility.

But as far as I am concerned and according to my own conviction and out of my concern to protect the FLN and safeguard the word militant it is inevitable that we should be flexible, because developments within Algerian society were achieved thanks to may positive factors. It is inevitable that we should have developed thoughts and methods and that we should proceed together with the development of Algerian society. This does not mean that we should open the door for opportunists and upstarts. This does not mean that we should open the door for all and sundry to enter the FLN. [applause]

I say that it is inevitable that there are sincere national elements [applause] who perhaps did not have the luck to enter the FLN. It is inevitable that we should win over all the sincere national elements and gather the fold as the FLN did during the difficult curcumstances. [applause] This does not mean the abandonment of the role of the FLN, but quite frankly the FLN was used by elements—I do not want to name names—they trampled on the interests of the state and of the nation. [applause]

The Liberation Front bears responsibility. They might be working in the name of the Liberation Front, so why should the Liberation Front provide them with this cover? I protect and defend the true activist who shoulders responsibility, whether he is in the executive committee or elsewhere. We will protect him when he is honest and loyal, we will defend him and protect him. It is the duty of the activist and of the Liberation Front to protect their true sons. [applause]

But when some people assume responsibility in the name of the Liberation Front and they tamper with the interests of the state, criticism would be directed toward the Liberation Front and toward the regime; this, brother, is not a proper method of work, it is not an acceptable work practice. Today it must be clear who shoulders responsibility, and especially when the matter concerns the voters.

If we take any child who was born after independence, now he must be 26 years old, which means he has reached the age of maturity and can express his views, due to the work and efforts exerted by the Liberation Front to develop all ideas for the benefit of Algerian society. Today the Algerian society is capable of thinking, and we ought to open up the door for all people who want to express their views, within the framework of the Liberation Front, on the problems of the nation and problems of the future.

And if some of our brothers say that they have not seen, in the document of reforming the basic law of the party, the position of the National Charter and of socialism, I would say this could be intended by some to raise doubts concerning intentions or of lack of understanding of the issues.

I have said that all those proposals related to the organizational side, no more and no less. Because the question is not a question of men, brothers, but is a question of the system. [applause] In this way we will destroy our cadres; the honest and qualified will be destroyed in this way. All right, we can dismiss a government and form another, dismiss a director and appoint another, remove an official in the party and replace him by another; however, the issues remain the same. We have been suffering from this for years.

Therefore, the problem and the solution have become an issue of changing the method of running affairs. This is what I put forward as a way to reorganize things, but not the ideological and the philosophical side. For the ideological side, neither the congress nor myself nor anyone else can change the National Charter. This is because the National Charter has become the property of the Algerian people. [applause] It is the same thing with regard to the Constitution.

Therefore, the Constitution and the Charter have become the property of the Algerian people. But the FLN and its militants are capable within the framework of a responsible dialogue of enabling all the sincere national elements to debate our problems and our affairs, and this includes the ideological side. When we arrive at a conviction concerning the need to include ideological reforms in the National Charter, an extraordinary congress will be held; this extraordinary congress will present a proposal to the Algerian people and be put to the vote.

If the Algerian people say yes to the proposal of the FLN or the ideological reform this in any event must be respected by all the people and by all the officials in response to the wish and the will of the Algerian people when the approval is expressed by a majority. But if the Algerian people say no to this idea of ideological reforms they have every right as they are the upholders of sovereignty.

Therefore the ideological question and socialism should not be raised every time, as if we were not self-confident. We always sing socialism at breakfast and at dinner; it should not be like this. According to this way of thinking, we would have reduced and watered down these sacred principles which have been brought forth by the concepts of socialism in the Algerian understanding of them. Thus we would have reduced them, and many factions would probably begin to have doubts about this way of understanding or that way of presenting them.

It is the same with regard to understanding democracy. We also fear today that in the name of democracy we will begin to use it in everything. Thus, democracy would be used for settling accounts, for creating confusion and raising doubts, and for dividing the ranks of the Algerian people. [applause]

The brothers also spoke about the multiplicity of parties; there were some for and some against it. I gave my views on this issue. I said that during the current phase it is not possible, but with the development of matters and when matters are proceeding well and if one day we reach the stage of dialogue within a constructive framework for all the national factions of this nation, then we will go back to the Algerian people to get their view. But I would like to say that in the present circumstances, the mere thought of opening the door for the multiplicity of parties will be dangerous to the people—dangerous to the nation and particularly to national unity. [applause]

Why do we say dangerous to national unity? Today we note that there are some groups which have begun to emerge—we do not generalize to be fair to all—there is a large number of people within these groups who have been expelled by history, who have been expelled by the FLN due to objective issues. [applause] They shouldered responsibilities while they were incapable of responsibility. They shouldered the responsibilities of managing economic establishments but were incapable of the task of management. They assumed political responsibilities and were incapable of such responsibilities. Some also had ambitions to sit in the seat of power.

We fear that one day each town and each group in a town in Algeria will claim that it is a party and say we are a group which is a party. In the various systems, whether socialist or otherwise, the multiplicity of parties has rules and procedures. A party which lacks a foundation or a base cannot be called a party—these are factions; they can be societies. But I said that my own personal conviction is that the current phase does not permit the door to be opened so quickly. However, I would like to say that if there a crystalization of ideas and if there is a constructive dialogue open for all the patriotic forces under the forum of the FLN and if they all reach a conviction—then we will go back to the Algerian people to get their view.

If tomorrow the Algerian people say yes to the multiplicity of parties, then each one of us shall assume his responsibility as a person—will the multiplicity of parties fit into this organization, or the will the idea be withdrawn? I say that this is due to the responsibility of each individual—the matter concerns him and his own conscience. But we should respect the people's will. If this issue were to be submitted to the people tomorrow, and if the overwhelming majority of Algerian citizens agreed to the multiplicity of parties, then the issue will be referred to the militants and even to the officials—personal choice; shall we complete the march and this stage in this manner or shall we terminate our tasks?

Therefore, this is what I wanted to clarify as far as the proposed reforms are concerned within the framework of democracy. The FLN party has always had democracy as its motto; this has been true even among its officials to a certain extent. Today we would like to win back everybody; everyone should praise such a step and all national segments of this nation which want to contribute and are able to contribute within the framework of the FLN party to build this nation's future.

Algerian society has changed; it has changed rather quickly. Youth makes up a majority in society; society has become composed totally of young people. I have repeatedly said on many occasions that we should really try to understand them, but not by the fact that were are parents, as I do not believe in political tutelage of guardianship.

No one should be a tutor for somebody else, and this extends even to the Algerian state. The Algerian people and all of us have reached political maturity. And therefore we would like to allow people to talk and freely express their opinion. I mean that we should have had enough with the old method of management. Today we can say that the majority of the Algerian people are young people and, therefore have aspirations which are different from our own aspirations.

My belief, however—and we should be proud of this as fathers and as the generation of the Algerian Revolution November 1954—is that we have formed a conscious and responsible generation of young people. And it is a responsible generation because when there is a crisis, particularly when the matter deals with our internal affairs, we have washed our dirty linen within the family and did not allow anybody from outside to give us a lesson. And this is a positive phenomenon of Algerian society.

Maybe there are, however, some elements of particular segments which form, if I may say so, a fifth column, a matter which I would not like to dwell upon here. I am talking about the overwhelming majority of the Algerian people who have been capable of handling the events when they said no; we do not want anybody to interfere in our problems and give us a lesson; we deal with our problems among ourselves as Algerians. And I believe that this was the effect of the FLN Party on Algerian citizens, and particularly Algerian youths in promoting zeal for their country. These are the principles of any society: Any society should be committed to its homeland, its nation and its civilizational identity.

The political reforms of the basic law are set out in the document in your hands, and I do not want to enter into details. However, here are just a few comments on the role of the Liberation Front and the mass organizations. With its long experience it has worked to maintain the unity of mass organizations, to maintain the credibility of their leaderships, and to maintain the joint activity of the Liberation Front with mass organizations and of the mass organizations with the executive and legislative bodies and in order not to give a chance to others.

Indeed, voices have started to divide the mass organizations; each faction has started to entertain the idea of organizing a free association independent of the mother organization on the pretext that representation in the mass organizations is not truly representative of the grass roots. We as a leadership, and especially as an executive body, are concerned with talking with the representatives of the social bodies in general in regard of their preoccupations and problems. We remain together, the executive body and the representatives of the mass organizations, and we want this agreement to be respected and implemented at all levels from the grass roots to the top. And if shortcomings show themselves sometimes, then the question should be raised because there can be no credibility or no true representation at the base and the top.

Not to give others a justification, we said that the mass organizations should have some sort of autonomy in regard of their internal matters, but we did not mean that they should split and start from today the creation of some sort of parties. [applause] But they should remain within the same family, the family of the FLN.

What is the thing that binds together all the existing national segments within the Liberation Front? It is the common denominator of the National Charter. And the National Charter is the property of the people and the political program of the FLN.

All the sections of society are with this political program. Therefore, we consider that we belong to the same family. Everyone manages [word indistinct] affairs as he pleases. Even the militant grassroots, peasants, workers, the womens' union, and others will elect their representatives in all freedom and democracy. This is what we want. There is no question of the FLN being eclipsed, dissolved, or removed from the mass organizations, because the mass organizations are the pillars of the FLN.

I stress that the common denominator between all of us is the National Charter. Therefore, I personally do not see a contradiction between the mass organizations and the FLN or the need to disassociate them. Likewise, regarding youth, we deem it necessary, and given the large number of colleges, universities, and students, the number of which may increase, it is also necessary to permit this young and educated element to organize its own internal affairs, to tackle its problems with the officials of the universities and colleges and the executive structures regarding its social problems.

But there must be coordination and linking with the mother organization. Coordination and relations must be looked into, together with an exchange of views, in order not to discriminate, because Algerian youth is one. This does not mean that we differentiate between the educated youth and the national organization of Algerian youth.

Quite the contrary, given the importance of this important sector, and given that perhaps it has problems, we must give it freedom to organize an institution to select its own representatives in a democratic framework, and to tackle its problems with colleges, universities, and even with the concerned ministry, or the government, or the executive quarter. This is what I mean.

Concerning other reforms, I have always said that they are of an organizational nature, no more, no less. I have spoken about stages: the stage of reform of the executive body, the stage of reform of the statute of the party, and afterwards the stage of complementing reforms of the constitution, because we cannot reform, or introduce a complete reform into the constitution without introducing some reforms into the statute, because the statute of the party has interrelated clauses.

We want—the meaning of separation is not what is generally understood by separation—in other words, it would not be correct to say tomorrow that the FLN has no right with regard to the issue of running the affairs of the state or nation; there should be links. But we say that we should separate the implementation from the owner of the plan or he who envisages something from the definition of the aims and the steering of the State's policy within the framework of the FLN. It is not at all possible, as I have said, for the people to shoulder responsibilities within the various executive bodies from the municipality to the central level in the name of the FLN only to tamper later with their tasks while criticism, blame, and abuse are levelled at the FLN and ultimately at the leadership of this country. [applause]

I said that it was inevitable for elections or the future renewal of elections to be changed. Instead of imposing on the citizen two or three nominations, I say let the citizen shoulder his responsibility, let him shoulder his responsibility; let's make the only condition the reverse of the current method. Instead of saying that a person to be nominated should have this and that qualification, let us say that no person has the right to be nominated unless he has this or that.

There should be a law governing that, so that we can keep the brother militants away from the marginal disputes in the arena and leave the citizen to elect his own representatives at the municipality, district, or national level. If these representatives do not meet the people's aspirations, then the FLN shall not be criticized; the citizen shall not criticize the executive; he will not criticize the political leadership as a whole. He will blame himself. He will be told: This was your choice.

But within this framework, we see that we will introduce some other reforms with regard to the elected councils—the municipal and district councils—and give them some powers, so that they can be truly representative of the popular base and watch over—if this is the right expression—the program of the executive authorities in the municipality and in the district, as the case is regarding the central level. It is inevitable for the executive authority, with regard to the district and the municipality, to submit a program to the people's council in the district or in the municipality, which the latter will have the right to discuss. [applause]

It has the right to agree or to disagree. It has the right at the end of the year, when there is fault in the running of municipal or district affairs, to come forward with a resolution and call upon the executive body to take measures and penalties against persons or against the group of the executive body. There should then be a response from the executive body. [applause] This is in order for us to operate in real openness and give the people, through their representatives, the opportunity to run their own affairs and define the responsibilities.

Thus, the government will present a draft bill to the National People's Assembly to deliberate on this law, so that we give credibility to our concept of the Algerian Democratic People's Republic—People's Republic, i.e. through their representatives. They supervise their municipal and district affairs as well as national affairs at the central level. This is democracy, and this is the way to run things. Alternatively we allow the people to run their affairs through their representatives and follow them up genuinely.

As for the basic and fateful issues, we revert to the arbiter, so that they can be the judge of the various contradictions or the political trends; we revert to the people so that they can be the judge between all the segments when matters reach an extent that we have to revert to the judge to pronounce the judgment.

Consequently, the minority must obey the majority either inside or outside of the framework of the FLN. This should be a sacred principle, and it should be respected by the people. When this principle exists and is not respected, then the state has the right to do what is necessary. Therefore, I say that the municipal and district councils should be given jurisdiction in the framework which I have just mentioned.

The municipal and district councils will be renewed at the fixed times. Regrettably we sometimes see that some compatriots—and most of them are people who have some accounts to settle with officials, who might be local—create confusion and problems. We tackle our problems. If we hear that a person or a group which is running the affairs of a municipality or district, or any level, turns out not to be worthy of this responsibility, then measures will be taken against it.

But if this were to happen in an anarchic way we would say no; but if it were to happen through real democracy, then we would say yes. [applause] Through real democracy, yes. To dragging the country into anarchy in the name of democracy, we say no. The state has capabilities, which would be used against anyone who wants to create confusion and problems in Algerian society. [applause]

A draft bill concerning the reinforcement of constitutional justice will also be proposed to the National People's Assembly. [applause] If it is at the level of the National People's Assembly, we reinforce the Algerian justice constitutionally. In that way we give true meaning

to the state of law, and law becomes above all people, respected by all people starting from the justice minister to the president of the Republic and down to all levels. This is the state of law. At the same time we protect the judge and simultaneously hold him accountable for his mistakes. The draft proposal will take into consideration all of these aspects—constitutional reinforcement of justice, the protection of the judge, and the accountability of the judge when he trespasses the limits of law.

During the coming period of the reform, we will also constitutionally create a constitutional council to the president, [applause] a constitutional council at the presidency composed of experienced legal men. When a legal or constitutional dispute arises between competent authorities—legislative, executive, or others—they can refer to the judgment of this constitutional council, which will explain the meaning of the constitution and explain the concept of the National Charter. This is also the conviction I have arrived at in this regard.

A bill will also be proposed to the National People's Assembly to the effect that anyone holding a position of responsibility, whether in the Executive Branch or in any other managerial post, should make public his personal property and bear full responsibility [applause] starting from the president of the Republic right down to any small, municipal official. [audience member shouts: Long Live Bendjedid...sorry, Long Live the Revolution]

Necessity as well as experience have convinced us to rethink the law governing the national press and the mass media in general. [applause] This should be carried out to protect the credibility of the concept of true democracy and to protect information and the press, and to safeguard against any excesses by an individual, a sergeant, or an institution. I have said repeatedly that we should see in the Algerian journalist an examining magistrate: Before any report is written about a given matter or an analysis is made about a given issue, he should first investigate—regardless of the seriousness of the problem—to give credibility to his report. We would like to give credibility to the national press and allow it to uncover all shortcomings and all irresponsible conduct as well as all trifling with the interests of the Algerian state.

I have also asked the prime minister and the Defense Ministry to study an issue of concern to the youth, which is the national service. I have asked them to study the duration of the military service and to overcome the complex and bureaucratic methods facing those who are not needed by the national service. We should give them the freedom to start working right away rather than leaving the situation as it is now, with youths who are not recruited for national service but are not exempted from it. This makes them the subject of the bureaucratic abuse: They are not allowed to start working, because they have not done their national service. So we would like to remove all this confusion and clarify matters. [applause] These are some of the necessary measures that I wanted to talk to you about.

Concerning the recent events, one feels a bitter regret over the human and material losses. We could have done without the latter, because these measures had been taken before the events. Perhaps I was ruthless. Some brother officials here said to me: You were ruthless with the state and party bodies at the 19 September meeting.

Perhaps as a politician, I could have done some twists and turns, shown some flexibility. But as a militant, I do not permit myself to do so. Because I did not say anything untrue about anyone. I said that I was also responsible along with them. I engaged in self-criticism; I mentioned shortcomings. Regarding the troublemakers, what did they come out with? I had said more than they had called for.

Therefore, we were supposed not to attain this level which had regrettably damaged the reputation of Algeria, of the Algerian citizen, and of the Algerian state. There are also some who attributes these measures, these reforms, and all this action to the events. Out of honesty, I say that this is belittling the will and wish of the political leadership. This means that they attribute these measures to the unruly acts. In other words, in their view, I encourage, I succumb.

I have said from the outset that I do not submit to certain conditions amid unruliness, but when I am convinced. Unruliness will not make us take such measures, studied measures. Certain things will be put into practice; certain things need to be put into practice. The delay in doing this was caused by the sixth conference. I wanted to do things with in the legal framework so that we could educate ourselves in respecting the law. No more, no less.

When I was convinced, I fully assumed my responsibility, including making a proposal for reforming the party statute in accordance with the new facts and to protect the FLN.

I say to the brothers: I belong to the generation educated by the FLN and the Liberation Army. I began my activity under the banner of the Liberation Army and the Liberation Front when I was 25. I had assumed responsibilities, when I was 25 and 26 that were bigger than me. Thanks to the Liberation Front and the Liberation Army, I reached specific responsibilities. Thanks to the FLN I attained this post. Thanks to my commitment to the FLN and its principles. [applause]

Therefore, nobody can indulge in an one-upmanship over us and feel more sympathetic towards the FLN than us! I mean that the brother militants—I do not like to generalize here; not at all—should understand us and we should understand them, as well as understand the new phases and the new data and the ambitions of our society through the many and frank discussions, including the National Charter and others. You should remember the simple tune which used to be voiced by the ordinary militants in the base of the FLN—when you open a democratic dialogue you should remember the words of

the ordinary citizen when he comes before you to express his views about his problems and his preoccupations; maybe there is even transgression on his property—all this made me take this among other initiatives.

I wish the brother militants to be at the level of events—at the level of the ambitions of the Algerian people and their hopes in their strugglers and the FLN—to emerge with a flexible management method, which allows the sincere sons of this nation to be embraced by us and to join us in the interest of the nation and the revolution no more, no less. [applause]

I said that these were the incidents which regrettably took place, but there are objective factors which caused all that. I am not talking here only about the recent incidents, but about things that took place in some district in previous months and years; I do not forget these. I frankly tell you that the discussion, dialogue, the National Charter, and some of the disturbances here and there have convinced me of the inevitability of us doing something to suggest to the political leadership and the militants that every aspect of management matters be changed, so that we can develop management means in a manner compatible with the Algerian society's requirements and ambitions.

But I said that foreign mouthpieces have played their part in stoking up this climate. I know the attitude of these foreign mouthpieces, but the only thing that pains me is the attitude of some Algerians—they deal with these mouthpieces; and they sometimes even write things, which they prefer to give to the foreign media instead of us washing our linen within our household and family and solving our problems by ourselves and raising our issues with full objectivity within a framework of the democratic climate, which we have opened in the new era.

Therefore, there are some other elements which the brothers should permit me to address; this occasion compels me not to keep quiet about certain things. As the popular saying goes: I will empty the sack in front of you. [applause] After I addressed the citizens following the incidents, some brothers rose up—I am not talking about the people to whom I have already referred: the opportunists, exploiters, and those with some accounts to settle because the regime had expelled them for objective reasons. Neither am I talking about those who are called comrades; I must say that they have been speaking, and we gave them the freedom of expression in the national press. It is also my right to speak.

I addressed all the sons of the nation, because we are in need of assistance and of moral and political support—particularly moral support at a time like this. I addressed them all so that we could tackle all the malicious elements who wanted to divide the nation. The first days after the incidents I was following with interest how situation was developing. After receiving reports from the security officials on the extent the excesses had reached as a result of the lack of the security organs' capabilities I met a group of political officials—from the political bureau and others—and I sought the brothers' views. In the end, I reached the conviction that I must shoulder my full responsibility.

In conclusion I took my stand and decision to safeguard the Algerian state. I instructed the armed forces to intervene. I tell you that history one day will record for the armed forces that they have rescued this homeland and this nation from catastrophe. [applause] They rescued the nation from catastrophe and civil war.

However sometimes we hear some people talking about some excesses. Due to lack of experience there were some who talked about torture. I am against this, and I have given very strict instructions in this connection to the officials concerned. [applause] I gave instructions to the Justice Ministry that we must not in any way use this method.

Despite the lack of experience, measures were taken but there are some people who tried to discredit the armed forces. Anyone who wants to criticize the National People's Army should criticize me. I am the one who gave the orders. This should be clear. [applause] To anyone who wants to criticize the security in general and the armed forces in particular—it was I who was was vested with the interest of safeguarding this state and this nation. But there was no talk about the other excesses.

I said that with regard to the torture excesses; I am against this; I am against it and measures will be taken against these wrongs. There were some excesses which regrettably no one mentioned, even in the national press. There were people whose honor was violated. [applause] No one talked about this. Not one has mentioned it

Why this injustice? Why should there be people who are biased and onesided? Perhaps circumstances and the climate made the national press cry less over them. But we will control them with laws.

All right, I said why do they not speak about other excesses, serious excesses against ordinary citizens? I am not talking about the official establishments of the Algerian state. Naturally, this led to the taking of the required harsh measures to confront the situation. This is what I wanted to say in general. I do not want to go into detail as the general report contains all the details with regard to the program of future action after the result of the reforms to be ratified by the congress with regard to the Constitution.

Other reforms concerning the completion of the Constitution including some points which I have referred to and others in the stage of preparation will follow. Naturally perhaps at the same time these will be followed by presidential elections. I am not saying to you today—I mean in conclusion I want to say my word—which I

have the right to do—but I am speaking about the program so that the brother militants and officials will be in the picture with regard to future arrangements.

Naturally after the responsible dialogue within the framework of the forum of the FLN in the manner we see proceeding from the reforms, an idea will emerge about the reforms within the national charter—regarding the ideological aspect of the national charter. If it is necessary to do so. We do not like to speak too much in advance but I say that this is my responsibility—the responsibility of the FLN and the social factions in general; when we become convinced of this necessity an emergency congress will be held, which will put forward a program of reforms and submit it to the people and the people will endorse it by vote. Ultimately the program will become legally effective and respected by all factions. This is the program which I wanted to refer to.

As for the issues of the hour, I believe that I have given them their due and explained all the reasons which led to those measures and the reasons which made me assume my responsibility fully with regard to all the proposals relating to reform. Today, I say that I place the trust in your hands, the trust which you have given me, your confidence. I have acted with all my strength and most sincerely and most honorably. My sole hope is that one day I will look at Algeria, as an ordinary citizen, and see it being progressively built more.

This is my wish and my ambition, no more and no less. [applause]. But I frankly tell you that one hand cannot clap. I need all the sincere sons of the nation. As an Arab poet once said: Give me my freedom, release my hands, as I have given everything and have nothing more that I can give. [applause] By God, I have given everything. [applause]. Thank you and peace be upon you. Until we meet again.

Congress Resumes 28 Nov

LD2811113888 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Sixth FLN Congress resumed this morning. Correspondent Ibrahim Zeouache reports: The Sixth FLN Congress has resumed. The morning session began about 50 minutes ago, with the militants' interventions. These interventions focused on a number of major axes which included praise for the opening speech made by the head of state, which was marked by frankness in clarifying and analyzing the economic, political and social situation. The speech was also praised for its firmness vis-a-vis all those who attempt to harm the principles of the glorious November revolution.

The second axis was an analyis of our country's economic, political and social situation. The third axis encompassed proposals to tackle the situation, including opening the way for competent people and loyal dynamic forces to play their role fully in the construction process. The militants' interventions are continuing. It is worth mentioning that the committees have concluded their proceedings and will present their reports in the afternoon session.

These committees are: the committee for procedural and organizational issues and amendment of the law; the political committee; the economic and social committee; the committee for candidatures; and the committee for the validation of mandates.

Further FLN Reports

LD2811233488 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Unidentified station correspondent's report from the Sixth FLN Congress]

[Excerpt] Precisely 1 hour ago the fourth and last session of the Sixth FLN Congress began with the reading of the draft congress resolutions prepared by the congress committees. Three reports have been read so far. The first congress issues of order and organization, the second is on socioeconomic issues, and then there is the political action report.

The main points of the report on issues of order and organization are: the adoption of the FLN name in a way to preserve the values and the principles of the 1 November Revolution, the commitment to the choices of the national charter, and the openness to the requirements of the political development of society; the adoption of a unified political program deriving from the national charter, which preserves the basic principles and which allows the tendencies and inclinations to express themselves and take part in the comprehensive effort for national development; the adoption of organizational structures which are able to adapt to the requirements of the field political work and its development, and which accord importance to the intellectual, motivation and coordination work.

The FLN statute was also adopted by an overwhelming majority. The first article states [words indistinct]. The FLN is a political organization that rallies the various political forces which believe in national unity, which are devoted to the people's interests, and which strive for the implementation of the objectives of 1 November 1954 and the achievement of social justice.

The second article states that the FLN is a democratic organization in its work and decision making. It strives to develop the democratic spirit responsible for the changes and developments in society and works to extend the freedom of expression which reveals the trends, affects the decisions and works for the consolidation of the socialist choice.

The third article says these changes and developments are carried out within the framework of respect for the following constants factors: 1) unity of the people and

the homeland; 2) Islam is the religion of the state; 3) the national language; 4) the state's republican system; 5) the fundamental freedoms of the person and the citizen as stated in the Constitution; 6) national independence.

Another article that was also adopted was No 8: The FLN undertakes political action for social development within the framework of national, Islamic and Arab values, and the constitutent factors of Algerian identity. This basically requires the following: the consolidation of national independence, the establishment of a society free from man's exploitation of man, the promotion of man, and the provision of conditions for the full development of his personality.

On the external level the FLN works for the following: support for the liberation movements in their struggle against colonialist control and the peoples' rights to self-determination, the consolidation of solidarity between all forces of liberation in the world against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, and racial discrimination and for the establishment of peace and justice in the world; continuous action for the achievment of the Great Arab Maghreb and its prosperity; work for the realization of cohesion among the Arab countries and making peace between their peoples to achieve national unity; work for the achievement of peace in the Mediterranean and the revival of cooperation among the peoples of the region; the consolidation of Arab unity; the consolidation of the Nonaligned Movement; and work for the establishment of a just system of international political and economic relations.

Among other important articles that have been adopted is Article 28 which says: The cell is the basic foundation of the FNL. The cell is followed by the kasma. Article 33 says: The kasma is a structure which includes a number of cells. The kasma may be set up following a request by a number of cells and the agreement of the next higher apparatus [itihadiya]. Article 37 says: The itihadiya is an organization which includes a number of kasmas.

Article 49 says: The Congress and the Central Committee are national-level apparatuses of the FLN.

Article 50 says: The president of the Republic undertakes the chairmanship of the FLN and appoints a secretary general. The latter may allocate duties among executive secretaries who will be accountable to him, that is, the executive secretaries are responsible to the FLN secretary general and not to the FLN chairman.

These are main points of the report on issues of order and organization.

We will try to give a summary of the economic committee's report. We will try to give you only its main topics. The congress determines the main orientations for the FLN's socioeconomic development as follows:

First: The policies of socioeconomic development aim to consolidate the general economic factors which might help in the well controlled expansion of production, essential accumulation, employment, and progress within the framework of social justice. The necessary means for economic development adaptation, which would guarantee the mode of economic development, the country's ability to meet liabilities, and its independent decisionmaking were also stressed.

Another point stresses that measures within economic adaptation and the pursuit of current economic reforms should be able to protect economic balances and respect priorities. Efforts should be made to reduce the high degree of dependence in the sector of food and exports. Because domestic production still cannot meet the national need for food it is paramount that such production must be improved by reducing dependency on oil for foreign earnings.

In addition, those on low wages and those who are unemployed should be protected against high prices and anarchic markets. Austerity should effectively be borne by all sections of society.

Other points of the report are:

To put an end to squandering and to combat spending on luxuries;

To mobilize existing and new savings for the benefit of economic and social actions;

To develop ventures of integration and ventures aiming at export;

To prefer production accumulation to consumption and to draw up a firm scale of priorities for social needs;

To organize responsibilities at all levels based on clear-cut choices and decisions and to coordinate the exercise of responsibilities with the realization of objectives in the national sphere;

To expand the planning programs based on economic incentive to organize the national market; to galvanize its role of regulating the method and development of the adapted economic means which ensure harmonious and unified supervision of development.

There should be democratic organization with workers' participation in the board of directors of organizations and inside the organizations themselves so that socialist management of organizations is given its full meaning and its ability to tackle strategic problems in economic development and progress.

These are briefly the main points of the two committee reports on procedural and organizational issues and socioeconomic issues. The report on political action is still being read. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Concluding Speech

LD2811232688 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2022 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Concluding speech by President Bendjedid at Sixth FLN Party Congress—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. It is a great honor that you should renew your confidence in me. I consider it an honor that you entrust me with this task. I would like to express my thanks, gratitude, and appreciation to you for this confidence. I would also like to thank the brother members of the Central Committee for choosing me to bear responsibility.

Sincerely, it was not out of courtesy or endearment that at the end of my talk yesterday I was serious, because when a person bears responsibility with all his strength and all his feelings it is tiring. However, since it is your will and, I think, the desire of our people, I accepted that responsibility. [applause] I turn to you, brother and sister militants, and through you to all members of the FLN and to all comrades in the struggle.

I repeat what I said in 1979 in this forum: I need your support and your assistance [applause] because the road is long and the difficulties are many. I consider the renewal of your confidence in me as support for all the proposals, as far as the proposals for reform, part of which has been implemented and the remainder will be implemented, are concerned.

I promise you that I will sincerely and faithfully do my utmost for this nation and this people. [applause] I will do everything in order to implement the political program which you have endorsed this evening. I will also do everything to follow up the implementation of the reforms which you have approved this evening: I will do that with all objectivity. But the brothers know that some of the reforms have been implemented while others are still to be applied. [applause]

We have worked for the sake of democracy and the distribution of responsibilities in the executive bodies, and even at the level of the FLN—as you have noticed this evening—authority was distributed. So perhaps we can eliminate the old views on the monopoly of authority, and eliminate the embarrassment felt by the bodies of the party and the legislative bodies in following up and monitoring matters concerning the management of our affairs—the affairs of the state.

But we will follow up with interest, together with the executive—the government—the implementation of the action which we have agreed on through the decisions and the resolutions you have endorsed with regard to the Central Committee. We will do our utmost and do it together to realize the objectives for which we aspire and for which our nation aspires.

The Algerian people pin great hopes on our congress—it has been an ordinary congress but it was convened in extraordinary circumstances. Praise be to God and thanks to the awareness of the people of this nation—the militants of the FLN—we have overcome the difficulties and tribulations. We hope from the bottom of our hearts that we will all work together to consolidate national unity and to implement and apply in the field the principles which the National Charter stipulate. [applause]

In this connection I have said that this is the common denominator between us—between us as members of the FLN and between us and the sincere patriotic brothers who want to join us to build this free independent Algerian state so that it can operate within the framework of our principles and establishments as well as our fundamental choices.

Whoever wants to join us, we welcome. We welcome any committed national element, any element that is committed to these principles and to the choices of the Algerian people through the National Charter. I have a great hope that we will all work tirelessly—everyone of us in his position—to accomplish these aims and the procedures or resolutions that we have agreed to.

I turn to you once again and through you to all the FLN militants and to all our proud people. I need advice, I need advice such as I was advised by the Algerian people in the 3 November referendum. I need that sort of advice. [applause] The advice I am asking from you, sons of the FLN, and of our people, is the same as on the day of referendum, concerning the second part of the constitutional reforms. The same goes for the presidential elections. [applause]

I want to use this authority, this power, with the will of our people and the will of its loyal sons, the sons of the FLN. [applause] Thus, you have entrusted me with that responsibility. It was my honor. I repeat that it is a difficult and heavy task. I consider it a trust, the fact that you have entrusted me with a task. In view of the important of this task, I request all the brothers and all our people, everybody in his position, no matter what his responsibilities are, to rally around and work toward the consolidation of the basic principles, to protect national unity and to defend our motherland. With these conditions and noble principles our revolution and our people will triumph.

Again, I thank you, brothers and sisters, for this confidence and I say goodbye until we meet on another occasion, God willing, especially in the field. Goodbye, and may peace be with you. [applause]

Central Committee Approved

LD2811225088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The final session the [FLN] Congress unanimously approved the resolutions on procedural and organizational issues; the political action committee;

and economic and social issues. The nomination committee put to the vote the names of 155 members of the FLN Central Committee. They were approved by a vast majority.

They comprise the following: the National People's Army, 20 members; mass organizations, 20 members; the National People's Assembly, 12 members; scientific and cultural vocational unions, 7 members. It is worth noting that the members of the National People's Army; mass organizations; and vocational, scientific, and cultural unions were approved by virtual of their posts. The members of the proposed base of representatives numbered 48. Thus the total is 155 members.

Egypt

Reportage on 'Surprise Visit' of Iraqi President

Saddam Husayn, Ministers Arrive

NC2811110388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn arrived in Cairo this afternoon. The Iraqi president is accompanied by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi led the reception committee at the airport.

This surprise visit to Egypt by President Saddam Husayn is the first since he came to office.

Five minutes after his arrival at Cairo airport, the Iraqi president held a meeting with President Husni Mubarak in the airport lounge.

The accompanying Iraqi delegation includes Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasim; Head of the Presidential Office Husayn; General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for Arab affairs; Awqaf Minister 'Abdallah Fadil; and Ambassador Fadih al-Shahid, director of the Arab Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

After a 30-minute meeting, Presidents Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak left the airport for Al-Qubbah Palace.

The meeting was attended on behalf of Egypt by Prime Minister Dr Sidqi and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The members of the accompanying Iraqi delegation were also present during the meeting.

President Mubarak had expressed pleasure at this surprise visit by the Iraqi president.

Iraqi President Previews Talks

NC2811125588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—President Saddam Husayn has stressed that his talks in Cairo will focus on promoting the fraternal relations between the Iraqi and Egyptian peoples and governments. In a statement to reporters folowing his surprise arrival in Cairo today, Saddam Husayn said that his talks with President Husni Mubarak will deal with all issues that concern the two countries and the Arab nation in political, economic, and other spheres. He pointed out that the Palestinian issue will receive priority over all other matters, noting that this is only natural in the wake of the PNC resolutions adopted in Algiers. He stressed the need to support these resolutions to our utmost ability and in all fields in order to serve the Palestinian people who are struggling for their land and the establishment of their independent state.

Regarding the Iranian-Iraqi negotiations, Saddam Husayn expressed hope that these negotiations will achieve firm, permanent, and comprehensive peace under the terms of documents signed by both countries.

On the exchange of prisoners between Iraq and Iran, Saddam Husayn said that the Iranians are still stalling over important issues. It is natural, he noted, that they should stumble in making a final and decisive decision regarding the prisoners of war. They will inevitably come to a conclusion in one way or another regarding the correct and normal course in life, he added.

Concerning the Syrian position in Lebanon, Saddam Husayn said that this is a secondary issue. The main issue that concerns the Arab nation is how to attain a better position, which is the current slogan for the time being. We must discuss and tackle any secondary conduct by this or that party with a pan-Arab spirit only, he stated. Concluding his statement, Saddam Husayn stressed that any victories by Iraq are victories for Egypt and vice versa.

Mubarak on Talks, Visa Ban

NC2811165388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Speaking to reporters following a luncheon with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed deep regret over the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, an entry visa to enable him to address the UN General Assembly.

The president said: The United States is a full partner in the peace process. I very much regret the U.S. position, especially in light of the efforts 'Arafat exerted to pass such resolutions at the PNC meeting. President Mubarak added that 'Arafat has made considerable efforts and that all the

countries of the world, including the United States, have considered the PNC meeting a positive step forward. We must encourage such a positive step, Mubarak noted.

President Mubarak stressed that a visit by 'Arafat to the United Nations would not have caused the United States any problems. He expressed the belief that the United States should have encouraged the step taken at the PNC meetings because it is an important one on the part of the Palestinians.

The president disclosed that he had sent a message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and George Shultz, his secretary of state, urging them to reconsider the U.S. position in this respect. President Mubarak expressed hope that the United States would respond positively to his message, since this would help give impetus to the peace process in the region.

Asked if a mini-summit will be held in Cairo, in light of reports that King Husayn of Jordan will arrive tomorrow, Tuesday, President Mubarak disclosed that King Husayn will arrive in Egypt in 2 days.

Answering another question on his talks with President Saddam Husayn, who arrived unexpectedly in Cairo today, the president expressed extreme happiness over President Husayn's presence in Cairo. He noted that the Iraqi president had spent 3 years in the Al-Duqqi area in Cairo in the past, and that he knows the Egyptians very well and is well-informed about Egypt.

President Mubarak revealed that he and the Iraqi president had exchanged views on a number of topics, most importantly the Iraq-Iran peace talks and the situation in the Arab region in light of the decision by the United States to deny an entry visa to 'Arafat, a development which Egypt extremely regrets. The president added that the talks also touched on pan-Arab issues of interest to the Arabs.

Asked whether Egypt intends to adopt a certain measure in response to the U.S. refusal to grant 'Arafat a visa, the president said: It is not a matter of measures to be taken, but, rather, one of endeavors we are exerting to persuade the United States. We have held contacts with the United States to determine what we can do in this respect. The president pointed out that he and the Iraqi president had discussed the Lebanese crisis as well.

Answering a question on the obstacle with regard to the exchange of war prisoners, including Egyptian prisoners, between Iraq and Iran, and whether Egyptian-Iraqi talks had touched on this issue, President Mubarak acknowledged that the operation had stumbled, but noted that talks are being held in this respect. He added: There is hope as long as the talks continue and a dialogue is under way.

Asked about Egypt's boycott of the UN General Assembly session, the president said: It is not a matter of boycott. We were going to hear what Yasir 'Arafat had to say. We already had prepared everything in connection with 'Arafat's visit, but the decision of the United States disappointed us.

Asked if Egypt will go to another place to participate in a meeting for solidarity with the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said: Most of the Arabs are talking about this now, but I am waiting for the United States to reconsider its decision regarding 'Arafat. The president pointed out that the United States has many friends in the region, and called on the United States to take these friends into consideration.

The president concluded by saying that he will hold another round of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

'Aziz on 'Identical' Views

NC2811194288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, resumed his talks this evening with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Aziz stated that during these talks they discussed the same issues discussed by Presidents Husni Mubarak and Saddam Husayn, as well as details pertaining to their work as foreign ministers.

'Aziz noted that the views of Egypt and Iraq were identical on all subjects which were discussed, including the Palestinian issue. He said: We are working together to support the Palestinian cause and the historic decisions which were adopted by the PNC in Algiers.

'Aziz affirmed that Egypt and Iraq hold the same position regarding the recognition of the independent Palestinian state and the support shown for the positive and responsible decisions which the brother Palestinians have taken.

'Aziz said that Egyptian and Iraqi diplomacy are working in complete coordination. He said that President Saddam Husayn harbors all the love and appreciation for Egypt, and views with extreme appreciation the position of his brother President Husni Mubarak, particularly during the treacherous aggression against Iraq by the Iranian regime. He emphasized that President Saddam also greatly appreciates the role of the Egyptian Government and people and their sincere sentiments toward the Iraqi people.

He added that Iraq and Egypt are two important Arab countries which possess great potential. The nature of relations between them is fraternal and serious and is characterized by persistence and perseverance. When the

two presidents make a decision to support the Palestinian cause, persistent and continuous work could be expected to take place in this respect.

He said: We are happy when the two countries can fulfill their duty toward the Palestinian cause at this delicate stage in the Palestinian people's struggle—the stage of the uprising, which expresses the bold and decisive determination of the Palestinian Arab people to achieve their freedom and independence, and the stage of the positive responsible decisions made by the PNC in Algiers.

Saddam, Delegation Depart

NC2811213388 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2125 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this evening following a 10-hour surprise visit. President Husni Mubarak headed the officials who bid the Iraqi president farewell.

The Iraqi president was also seen off at Cairo International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Assembly Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and senior civilian and military state officials.

Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn held a news conference at Cairo airport prior to the latter's departure. President Mubarak opened the conference with a statement in which he praised the brotherly relations between the Egyptian and Iraqi peoples.

President Mubarak said: I take the opportunity provided by the presence of my brother, Saddam Husayn, the president of the dear and sisterly country Iraq, to welcome him on the land of Egypt after such a long time. I was happy to meet with him today. It was a surprise to me. I did not know about his visit until he landed at the airport. I was pleasantly surprised. I once again welcome him to Egypt, his second country, and wish him and sisterly Iraq progress and peace, God willing, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

President Saddam Husayn also delivered a brief opening statement at the news conference in which he said: My acquaintance with my brother, President Husni Mubarak, goes back a long time. I firmly believe in his patriotic and human values. I have been aware of these characteristics for a long time. You know what Cairo and Baghdad mean to the Arabs. These two cities are well known in Islamic and human history. History is one of the components of our present relations and their success.

A high level of mutual confidence and profound brotherhood characterize my relations with my brother, President Husni Mubarak. Deep brotherly relations also exist between the Egyptian and Iraqi peoples.

He added: My brother, President Mubarak, has visited us in Baghdad three times. The circumstances of the war prevented me from travelling to Cairo to meet with my brother and with the officials. My brother and the officials who visited me in Baghdad used to ask me when I would visit Cairo. I used to tell them that, when time permits you will see me in Cairo without prior notice. Today I fulfilled this promise to my brother, the president, and our brothers in Egypt.

President Saddam Husayn added: My meetings today with my brother, President Husni Mubarak, and my brothers, the officials in Egypt, and with the noble Egyptian people, have made me very happy. The brotherly meeting between us is a natural thing. It also reminds us of our pan-Arab responsibilities toward the Arab nation. This is in addition to our national responsibilities toward our two countries. Within this framework, we met and discussed our affairs, and thank God for everything. Asked what the two leaders had achieved in their talks, President Saddam Husayn said: Some Arabs always want to rush things, while others leave things without searching for ways to crystallize ideas that can be implemented. We do not want to talk about one, two, or three things that were discussed. However, we will say that our discussions were carried out according to a spirit of brotherhood and on the basis of the considerations which we have mentioned.

Asked by a MENA corespondent what his feelings and memories were when he lived in Cairo, as he toured the city this afternoon without guards or special arrangements, President Saddam Husayn said: The memories are very profound human, national ones. He said: I arrived in Cairo after I had completed the final year of my secondary school education. I was young then, not like now. When remembering those days, I recall Egypt's hospitality and the nationalism of its people.

Before I had arrived in Cairo, I had been sentenced to death. I stayed in Cairo for over 3 years. I returned to Baghdad after the revolution broke out against the tyrranical Shu'ubi regime.

President Saddam added: My memories of Cairo and its great Egyptian people are a reflection of these emotions. It is natural for me to recall all these memories, especially when I could barely recognize Cairo's old features, following its construction and development under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak.

Asked about the declaration of the Palestinian state and the PLO's recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338, at a time when the United States has refused to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to deliver a speech at the United Nations, and about Egypt's and Iraq's positions regarding the efforts which should be exerted in these circumstances in the coming stage, President Saddam Husayn said:

You have heard that both Cairo and Baghdad have strongly supported the establishment of the Palestinian state and the Algiers decisions. It transpired that the United States has refused to give 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations.

The Iraqi president disclosed that this action—characterized by a narrow-mindedness on the part of a big power like the United States—surprised him. He added: We were not expecting this, as I mentioned previously. Naturally, we do not consider this action to be connected with sovereignty, because there is a commitment and agreements between the United States and the United Nations. The action by the United States contradicts this commitment and agreements. He expressed hope that this position will be reconsidered, because it is an affront to Yasir 'Arafat and primarily to the Arabs and to the enitre world.

Asked whether there is a unified Arab position on this decision, President Saddam Husayn said: The Arab position is to support the PLO. He said that it is natural that any political position on such a decision should be based on this Arab position. We, as Arabs, lend every support to the decisions which the PLO adopts. We also support the Palestinian state. Therefore, it is natural that we will maintain solidarity with the PLO with regard to this decision.

Asked whether he believes that greater Arab solidarity will enable us to confront the recent U.S. position, President Saddam Husayn said: We seek Arab solidarity. My brother, President Mubarak, and I always discuss this issue.

He said: We agree about the meaning of solidarity. We view Arab solidarity in a broader sense, and not the narrow sense of merely deciding on a reaction to a position by one state or another. The Arab solidarity which we seek is one which charts the joint program of action that will lead us, as Arabs, to a better position, not just a stronger position, in the economic, social, cultural, political, and all other spheres, including a better position to confront any mistreatment of the Arabs.

Asked why he arrived in Cairo today wearing civilian clothes, and whether this is connected to or indicative of his optimism about peace, President Saddam Husayn said: I have come to Cairo today, as I did in the 1960's, wearing civilian, not military, clothes. I am wearing civilian clothes now after such a long time. The period which was ushered in after August is, naturally, a new period. It has become clear that the expansionist slogans which the Iranians had raised have been defeated.

The defeat of these slogans is not just a military but, basically, an ideological, political, and psychological defeat. At the same time, however, we must be prepared for the worst scenarios. We are used to dealing with life with all its complexities and to taking any possibility into consideration. Therefore, it does not mean that, because we wear civilian clothes, it is possible for us to close our eyes to any sign of danger from any side.

Asked about the possibility of convening an Arab summit conference soon, President Saddam Husayn said: Any step forward by any Arab state or group of states, if it stems from a pan-Arab view that serves the Arab nation as a whole or any one Arab state, is bound to benefit all. Any meeting held by a group of Arab states cannot take the place of a meeting held by all the Arab states.

He said: My meetings with my brother, President Mubarak, or with any other Arab king or president, do not substitute for continuous discussions and for preparing the suitable groundwork for a meeting of all the Arab leaders. Any small Arab gathering does not substitute for a meeting within the framework of the Arab League.

The Iraqi president added: On this basis, summit conferences have been convened which all of the Arab leaders, and not specific ones, have attended. Therefore, I will continue to try to ensure that summit meetings are held on a regular and annual basis. As I have said, we will study with our other Arab brothers how to facilitate the convening of an Arab summit, which we hope Brother President Husni Mubarak will be able to attend with all of his Arab brothers so that everything pertaining to the Arab nation can be discussed. We hope that such a meeting will be good and beneficial for the Arab nation.

Ghali Interviewed on Visa Ban, Other Issues

JN2811181788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1709 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by news director Antoine Nawfal in Paris on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] The current talk today is the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States. This refusal has evoked a mammoth wave of dissatisfaction, especially in Arab states and particularly in Egypt. Mr Minister, what is your deep feeling toward this behavior?

[Ghali] My deep feeling is profound regret. We regret this decision and wish the U.S. Government would reconsider because it conflicts with the UN charter and with the charter's spirit based on dialogue and on opening the UN door to all concerned parties so they can express their own hopes and aspirations.

Hence, the Palestinian side should have been allowed to speak at the UN General Assembly so it can explain to the international public opinion the importance of the resolutions adopted in Algiers. No doubt, any attempt to prevent any party whatsoever from addressing the international public opinion is against the UN interest and against the interests of peace and dialogue.

[Nawfal] The prevailing impression is that the United States does not do enough justice to the Egyptian moderation. Henceforth, is there any genuine possibility that Washington will reconsider what it has done?

[Ghali] In fact, Egyptian diplomacy, in cooperation with Arab diplomacy, will try to talk to Washington and convince it of the importance of reconsidering this decision which is not in the interest of peace.

[Nawfal] If this is not possible, does Egypt support the transfer of discussions on the Palestine question to Geneva?

[Ghali] No doubt, this is one of the means or alternatives. We will find great support from many countries. However, there is a visible difficulty because transferring the UN General Assembly's meeting will require financial expenses. This is one of the means and we should consider other means in order to enable the Palestinian side to speak and express its views before the world public opinion.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency said we will move along with the Arab states. In fact, by recognizing the Palestinian state, Egypt has restored its natural and pioneering role in the Arab world. Today, Damascus praises the Egyptian position and is of the opinion that Egypt has once again placed its Arab commitments above any other commitments, particularly those of Camp David. What does this Syrian praise evoke in you?

[Ghali] We welcome dialogue with all Arab states. We are of the opinion that through dialogue between Egypt and the Arab states we can work to consolidate the Arab position and strengthen the Arab negotiating position. The Arab world is in dire need of this solidarity so it can overcome the obstacles emerging on the path of peace. An example of such obstacles is the recent U.S. decision.

[Nawfal] Arab diplomatic sources expect restoration of relations between Syria and Egypt. In your opinion, is there an actual possibility in this regard?

[Ghali] I have no information on the latest developments in Egyptian-Syrian relations. However, as I said, Egyptian diplomacy welcomes dialogue with all fraternal Arab states.

[Nawfal] But is the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations somewhat dependent on amending Syrian policy in Lebanon for example?

[Ghali] No doubt, there is an essential difference between Egyptian and Syrian diplomacies regarding Lebanon. Egypt's position on the Lebanese issue is clear: We urge all states to withdraw from Lebanon so Lebanon can resolve its issue by itself. Egyptian diplomacy is of the opinion that any foreign presence in Lebanon is an obstacle on the path to a peaceful Lebanese settlement. Egypt's position on Lebanon supports Lebanese reconciliation, rejects any attempt to partition Lebanon, and stresses the need for Lebanon to enjoy its independence and sovereignty. We believe that through such a Lebanese sovereignty Lebanon can serve the Arab homeland. This homeland needs an independent, strong Lebanon based on dialogue and national reconciliation.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency made a tour of Africa. Now you will leave for Mexico. What is the relation between Africa and Mexico?

[Ghali] Africa is a group of developing states which belong to the Third World. Mexico is a Latin American state which also belongs to the Third World. Egypt wants to play a pioneering role in the Third World. It is of the opinion that through solidarity among the Third World states—whether Latin American, African, or Asian—we can strengthen the Egyptian and Arab negotiating positions as well as the Third World states' position and South-North relations.

[Nawfal] French-Egyptian coordination is a known fact which was entrenched on several occasions and through the exchange of visits between Presidents Mitterrand and Mubarak. Is there anything new in this coordination at present?

[Ghali] The new thing is that there is a strong political willpower in both Cairo and Paris to achieve further coordination and cooperation to enhance the relationship between the southern and northern Mediterranean. This aims to bolster the relationship between the EEC states and the Third World states. Through this coordination between Cairo and Paris, we can work to support the cause of peace in the Middle East and other world regions.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, thank you.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Barring of 'Arafat

NC2811153588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Increased International Support and Sympathy After 'Arafat Was Denied Access to the United Nations"]

[Text] It is a time when international peace efforts have gone a long way toward finding a just solution for the Palestinian problem, and the entire world has supported the idea of holding an international conference for Middle East peace in which the five permanent members of the UN Security Council should take part along with the concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

While the Palestinians have been showing moderation and realism through the PNC resolutions which answered Washington's demands concerning the recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and the denunciation of terrorism, a position which

was met by wide international satisfaction and support, the world was stunned by Washington's decision 2 days ago to deny Yasir 'Arafat access to the UN Headquarters in New York where he was to inform the international community of the Algiers resolutions and of the Palestinian people's desire to establish their independent state on their national soil in the West Bank and to coexist peacefully with Israel.

Naturally, the U.S. decision drew international criticism, even from U.S. allies in Western Europe. France, Italy, and Sweden have asked the U.S. Administration to reconsider its decision. International concern over Washington's decision stems from the international community's eagerness to maintain the peace process, to keep alive the efforts aimed at bringing peace and security to all the Arab region, and to protect international interests in this strategic part of the world.

Washington's decision against 'Arafat has redoubled international sympathy and support for the PLO. It has indirectly given wider international publicity to the Algiers resolutions, which had spoken the mind of the Palestinian people. The decision has thus given an added boost to the Palestinian uprising, the 1-year-old strife which is still going strong in the occupied territories. Therefore, the decision will lead to stronger pressure on Washington and Israel to accept the Arab-Palestinian call for peace.

The Palestinians have done their best. They have gone to great lengths of realism and pragmatism along the road to peace. We had expected their position to be met with a more moderate U.S. stand rather than with a rejection of the Algiers resolution and a ban on 'Arafat's access to UN Headquarters. Our expectations were particularly based on the fact that Washington is a principal partner to the peace process and therefore has a responsibility to be fair and even-handed in dealing with the Arabs and Israel.

This is particularly true following intensive U.S. moves since the beginning of this year, which featured various U.S. initiatives and repeated visits by Secretary of State George Shultz to the countries of the region.

What is particularly astounding is that Washington's decision against 'Arafat came only 2 days following the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. The U.S. decision was not aimed so much against 'Arafat as against the international community represented in the United Nations. The decision contravenes the 1947 agreement between the United States and the United Nations, which states that no person should be prevented access to the UN Headquarters. The decision also runs counter to the principles of international laws, since 'Arafat did not merely want to visit the United States.

The entire international community—which has shown eagerness to safeguard the peace process and has supported the Algiers resolutions as a positive step which should be reciprocated by similar steps on the part of Israel—is apprehensive that the U.S. decision against 'Arafat could cause despair among Palestinians who preach realism and moderation and who call for independence and peaceful coexistence with the others.

If this happens, the door will be flung wide open to Palestinian hardliners, a development which can spark off waves of violence and counter-violence in the region and destroy forever the current opportunity to stimulate peace efforts and end one of the world's most menacing regional crises.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Arab Leaders

LD2811151688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following message to Arab kings and presidents on the U.S. Administration's decision to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from going to the United Nations to deliver the Palestinian address:

Brothers, Arab kings, and Presidents: Arabs have no other course, given the fact they are daily facing U.S. arrogance and disdain for their dignity, but to sever relations with the United States.

The United States has scorned the Arabs; any talk about any friendship or relations with it offends the Arab nation's dignity as well as degrades it before the rest of the world.

None of you could deny that the United States has shown enough scorn toward the Arab nation; whenever it slaps our right cheek we turn our left one. Therefore, relations with the United States, given this reality facing the Arabs, have become the shame of every Arab.

It was the United States who enabled the enemy to own weapons of total destruction and missiles which can reach targets some 4,000 km away. It has enabled it to produce nuclear bombs and biological weapons.

And, furthermore, it has helped to build and launch a satellite to spy on Arabs and signed with it a strategic alliance which has enabled it to have access to all U.S. sophisticated equipment in such a way that U.S. security has become the enemy's security and vice versa. The United States did not, moreover, hesitate to use the veto in favor of the enemy and to the detriment of Arabs.

The recent U.S. decision to refuse an entry visa for the PLO chairman to go to the United Nations, although such an entry visa is not for the purpose of entering the United States itself but to exercise a legitimate right with the United Nations, is the biggest insult the United States has ever directed against the Arabs.

Such a U.S. decision has barred the way to Arabs as they were going to debate and defend their causes at an international organization of which they are members, notwithstanding the worldwide recognition of the PLO and appreciation for the Palestinian people's struggle.

The Great Jamahiriyah, proceeding from its commitment to its principled stance toward the issue and in affirmation of its repeated warnings on a number of occasions against the danger of the Arabs' continuing relations with the United States, which is biased toward their enemy, cannot close its eyes to the Arabs' relations with the United States.

It will, furthermore, also work vigorously to incite all the Arab nation's forces to work against such relations. Its inspiration to do so stems from the logical process of history and the legitimate struggle of the Arab nation against the United States, Zionism, and imperialism.

In the face of the submission to a humiliating reality imposed by the U.S. will and which Arabs accept with resignation, the will to resist remains the best thing to which the dymanic forces of this nation should hold fast, a will which will not necessarily be suppressed or defeated.

Antiterrorism Head on U.S. Official's Remarks

LD2811234888 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The director of the Antiterrorist Bureau at the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau commented on the statement of Paul Primer, the senior expert on terrorism at the American State Department, quoted by the Voice of America radio in its news bulletin yesterday Sunday on the visit of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the leadership in Great Jamahiryah, to Italy.

The director said "The American officials continue to make statements and fabricated accusations against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiryah in a bid to undermine it and tarnish its image before the world public opinion. The tone used by the American Administration became naked in objectives and purposes. The world public opinion as well as official opinion became fully convinced that all the allegations which the American Administration was, and still is, attempting to stick to the Libyan Arab people and its leadership, are groundless after the courts in West Germany, Austria and Italy proved the falsehood of all American allegations against Great Jamahiryah and which the American Administration and its officials are still repeating. [no closing quote mark as received]

The making of such claims which carry unjustified animosity against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiryah by the officials of the American Administration is not new in essence and objectives and comes within the policy to which the Reagan administration is accustomed to in its desperate bids to sabotage the relations of Great Jamahiryah with other countries especially European states.

The director concluded his commentary by saying that the renewal of the campaign of distortion and disinformation against Jamahiryah these days at the time of the first official visit, since the revolution, by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud is merely another failing attempt to hinder any positive development in the relations of Libya with other Western European countries.

Chad Forces Down Small Plane; Pilots Captured

LD2911121888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli 29 Nov. (JANA)—JANA has learned that an Italian-built Siai-Marchetti small aircraft, belonging to the Libyan Civil Aviation Club and manned by two trainee pilots, has lost direction and strayed into the Chadian border region.

The Chadian forces opened fire on it, forcing it to make an emergency landing in Chadian territory. The Chadians have announced that the two trainees have been captured.

Iranian Industry Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD2811234288 Tripoli JANA in English 1846 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Behzad Nabavi, the Iranian minister for industry, and the delegation in his company arrived this morning in Tripoli to attend the meeting of the Libyan Arab-Iranian mixed commission.

The Iranian minister made a statement to the correspondent of JANA in which he said his visit and that of his delegation comes within the context of the first meeting of the mixed economic and cultural commission.

He expressed his hope that such meetings will contribute towards the bolstering of ties and the development of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Morocco

Government Comments on 'Arafat Visa Refusal

LD2711212988 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2037 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The Moroccan Government expressed surprise and astonishment at the official refusal of the U.S. State Department of a visa application made by the chairman of the Executive Commitee of the PLO, a visa that would have enabled Yasir 'Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly personally and directly on 1 December 1988.

The Moroccan Government considers that the decision of the U.S. State Department assuredly goes in the opposite direction of the wide international support, backing, and encouragement being expressed in various parts of the world for the balanced, responsible, and realistic resolutions adopted by the PNC in its recent session in Algiers.

The Moroccan Government does not hide its fear of the U.S. State Department's decision which will likely impede the peace process which is warmly hoped for by all justice and equity-loving peoples.

The Moroccan Government brings to mind the diligent efforts made by Morocco to find a just and lasting settlement to the Middle East problem. And everyone knows that His Majesty King Hassan II, considered one of the most important makers of the Fes peace plan and chairman of the seven-man committee of the Fes summit, had been entrusted by this summit to submit directly to the U.S. Government, as well as the governments of all the Security Council member- states, the medium- and long-term viewpoints of the Arab peoples concerning a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict which has been preoccupying the region and all the world for more than 40 years.

Sudan

Opposition Ready To Meet With Government

EA2811160188 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28th November—The opposing Sudanese African parties have decided in a meeting here yesterday to meet with Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, to have consultations on the workable steps for implementing the peace agreement signed between the DUP and the rebel SPLA in Addis Ababa last week.

The African opposition's spokesman, Yohannes Akol, called on the government to clear out its stance towards the peace agreement.

Al-Turabi Comments on Constitutional Conference

EA2811205288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Nov (SUNA)—The government will launch in the coming period intensive internal and external campaigns (?toward achieving) peace and ensuring the constitutional conference is held on the date fixed. [Words indistinct] Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, member of the Ummah Party's Executive Committee and minister of finance and economy, in a press statement [passage indistinct].

Meanwhile Dr Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front [NIF], has said the NIF is not against establishing a preparatory committee for holding the constitutional conference and that it [words indistinct] in holding the conference on the date decided [word indistinct].

However, he said the NIF regards the initiative's imposition of certain provisions to be erroneous. Al-Turabi spoke about the Ummah Party's position vis-a-vis the initiative. He said he believes the Ummah Party's official position is yet to be determined and that he cannot assess the situation unless official action is taken on the matter. [passage indistinct]

Party Leader Supports DUP-SPLA Agreement

NC2711165288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Nov (MENA)—Imam Ahmad al-Mahdi, leader of the Al-Ummah al-Ansar Party, issued a statement today in which he expressed his support for the peace initiative signed by the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and the SPLA in southern Sudan.

The statement noted that Sudan is at a crossroads with regard to the establishment of peace now that new circumstances have emerged in the political arena that have enabled some loyal national leaders to hold direct contacts aimed at halting the bloodshed and establishing peace by agreeing on a cease-fire in the south and setting a date for convening the constitutional conference before the end of December.

Imam al-Mahdi described this as an important achievement and a major turning point that has been realized through continuous efforts and persistent endeavors by the DUP leadership with the support of friends who are eager to ensure Sudan's security and stability.

In his statement, Imam Ahmad al-Mahdi urged all the political forces to support every glimpse of hope for national reconciliation so the Sudanese in the south may be reassured and so the world around us may be confident we are advocates of peace.

In another development, the Sudanese Labor Federation's Central Committee issued a statement today emphasizing its complete support for the peace initiative and calling on all political forces to support it and give it momentum.

Tunisia

U.S. Decision on 'Arafat Visa 'Unjustified'

LD2811171588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The Tunisian Government received with amazement and consternation the U.S. State department's decision to refuse an entry visa to Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO

Executive Committee chairman, to attend the UN General Assembly debates in New York on the Palestinian cause.

This refusal contradicts the spirit and letter of the 1947 UN agreement. While this refusal restricts the freedom of the UN to discuss the issues on the agenda, it also obstructs the UN from taking action in its capacity as an organization for achieving world peace and security.

While international public opinion welcomed the PNC resolutions made during its recent meeting, which undoubtedly proved the Palestinian leadership's commitment to achieving international legitimacy, its condemnation of terrorism, and its desire to pursue the path of peace and dialogue, the U.S. decision works against this constructive tendency and deals a disappointing blow to the hopes of the world's peace- and justice-loving peoples.

This decision encourages Israeli extremism to abort every attempt aimed at placing the Palestinian cause in the international entente. The Tunisian Government calls on the U.S. authorities to review their position, which it finds unjustified.

The Tunisian Government supports the call to hold the debates outside the United States. This statement was made by Habib Ben Yahia, minister of state delegate to the foreign minister, after his audience this afternoon with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on 'Arafat, Arab Stance

LD2811134288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1143 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 28 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Monday emphasized the importance of the unity of the Arab stance toward challenges and pressures that the Arab nation undergoes.

Shaykh Sabah was commenting on the Arab demand to move the U.N. General Assembly session on the Palestinian cause from New York to Geneva after Washington refused to grant a visa to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to address the U.N. body.

The deputy premier and foreign minister expressed hope that the Arab bid would meet success and give 'Arafat the opportunity to deliver his speech.

Government To Contribute to UN Observers Group

LD2411095788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0827 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] United Nations, Nov 24 (KUNA)—Kuwait has informed the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the General Assembly that it had decided to make a voluntary contribution of one million dollars in goods and services for (UNIIMOG).

Addressing the committee as it continued debate on the financing of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), Kuwaiti representative Ziyad Munayir said Wednesday the Kuwaiti contribution was in addition to its assessed contribution for that operation. He said his government valued the observer group and commended the U.N. for its peace-keeping activities.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Condemns U.S. Stand on 'Arafat Visa

EA2911094988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has sent a message of solidarity to Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestine Revolution Forces on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in which he said:

Permit me to convey to you and the masses of our Palestinian people, in the occupied territories and in all places of the diaspora, the highest esteem and fraternal solidarity of our people and brothers, members of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and the Council of Ministers, and myself. We wish you further victories on the road to freedom and complete national independence.

We reiterate our firm support and backing for the heroic struggle of the masses in the occupied territories under the leadership of the PLO—sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—and for the decisions issued by the 19th session of the PNC, particularly the decision relating to the establishment of the Palestinian state.

We condemn in the strongest terms the arbitrary decision of the U.S. Administration preventing you from delivering a speech on behalf of the Palestinian people before the UN General Assembly.

We consider this an act meant to frustrate peace efforts in the Middle East. We appeal to all Arab and Muslim countries, the Nonaligned Movement, and all friends of the Palestinian people, to resist the U.S. decision and foil its aims.

The Yemeni people reiterate their firm stand on the side of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO until it achieves its national objectives of full liberation and complete independence.

To this end, the PDRY will exert itself individually and in collaboration with the world's organizations. We are fully confident of the ability of the Palestinian people and their glorious revolution to achieve complete and final victory.

Qatar

'Deep Regret' Expressed Over U.S. Visa Decision

JN2811121388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 28 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed deep regret over the U.S. Department of State's refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to New York to deliver the Palestinian people's speech and explain their cause at the UN General Assembly.

QNA has quoted an official source at the Qatari Foreign Ministry as saying that his country—surprised by the U.S. rejection—expressed deep regret over this negative stand adopted by the United States on the PLO, represented by its chairman 'Arafat, even though the PLO has given—through recent resolutions—categorical proof of its certain desire to continue the march toward peace.

The official source said that the State of Qatar considers the U.S. decision a violation of the 1947 agreement between the United States and the United Nations and contrary to frequent U.S. appeals to the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to abide by UN resolutions, particularly Resolution No 242 to achieve peace in the region.

At the same time, the source added, Qatar expresses great hope that the U.S. Administration reconsiders this unjustifiable decision to prove its credibility in an earnest endeavor to find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Visits; Sees Amir

JN2411150488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Doha, 24 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom on recent developments and incidents in Maldives and ways to enhance and promote bilateral relations.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel, currently visiting Doha, conveyed the message when His Highness Shaykh Khalifah received him today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs.

Departs for Muscat

JN2511142288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel and his accompanying delegation left Doha for Muscat today at the end of a 3-day visit to Qatar. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

UK Defense Official Younger Visits Riyadh

Confers With King

LD2511022188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, received at his office at the Royal Court at Al-Salam Palace [words indistinct] Mr George Younger, UK secretary of state for defense, and his accompanying delegation.

Mr Younger conveyed a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

LD2511023388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Nov (SPA)—British Secretary of Defense George Younger has described his talks with His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, as very fruitful.

In a news conference held yesterday in Riyadh, he said they discussed the Al-Yamamah project. He said that he was happy to have had the opportunity last July to sign the official memorandum of understanding, according to which the United Kingdom will export additional aircraft and other equipment to the Kingdom.

The British secretary of defense added in a press statement, read at the beginning of the press conference, that the principal element in the Al-Yamamah project is the program of economic balance.

He said: The British Government is determined to make this program successful. There is a joint statement on this subject about to be released. He expressed great appreciation to Prince Sultan for the latter's invitation to visit the Kingdom a second time.

He said: I have handed his royal highness a message from Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, in which she renews the invitation to His Royal Highness to visit Britain. I hope that this will take place next year and [word indistinct] convinced that his highness will be met with a warm welcome when he once again comes to my country.

The British defense secretary pointed out that his visit to the Kingdom, which lasted 3 days, had enabled him to visit King Faysal Air College, King Sa'ud University, the TV tower, and the military survey building. He described these installations as giving cause for admiration and explained that the visit enabled him to get acquainted with the great development of the city of Riyadh.

He added: The Kingdom spends a lot to build its future. Answering a question on the second stage of the Al-Yamamah project and on whether there are changes, the British secretary said: There will be no changes in expectations for the second stage of the Al-Yamamah project.

He added that details are still being worked out by British and Saudi officials and explained that the details of the equipment included in the second stage will be confirmed by the Saudi side.

George Younger was asked about Britain's attitude toward the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. He answered: We warmly welcome the PNC declaration. He described the declaration of the independent Palestinian state as a very positive step in the right direction. He said we now expect a similar constructive step from the Israeli Government as soon as possible.

He explained that the British Government is not in a position to dictate to British companies. He said what we can guarantee is that the British government will do something to encourage British companies and help them benefit from the opportunity made available to these companies to participate in joint programs.

The British secretary of state was asked whether Britain would enter negotiations concerning the Palestinian cause, particularly after the PLO's recognition of Resolution 242. He said: We are very glad that the PNC issued its statement which, as I said before, is a positive step that involves recognition.

He also expressed satisfaction with the end of the Iraq-Iran war. He expressed hope that the two sides will reach stable peace through direct negotiations.

He expressed his country's anxiety over the situation in Lebanon which he described as a friendly country and said: "We are interested in the reconciliation process between the different factions in Lebanon."

He called for the release of all hostages held captive in Lebanon as soon as possible and denied the involvement of Britain in deals regarding this issue and said: "We are ready to give political advice to Lebanon and all the parties should know that we are here to assist in the reconciliation process."

Departs for Home 24 Nov

LD2511024188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah 23 Nov, (SPA)—British Secretary of State for Defense George Younger left Al-Madinah for home after concluding his visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Defense Minister Meets Italian, French Officials

JN2211123488 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, defense minister, received in his office this morning Valerio Zanone, Italian defense minister, who is currently visiting the country. They discussed a number of issues pertaining to the consolidation of existing cooperation between the UAE and Italy in a number of military fields.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum and the Italian defense minister also reviewed means to establish peace in the region, especially after the acceptance of Iraq and Iran of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and their entry into UN-sponsored peace negotiations.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum affirmed to the guest minister that peace in the Gulf is a vital issue for world security in view of the interlinked interests between the area states and the rest of the world states.

For his part, the Italian minister welcomed the expansion of the scopes of the existing cooperation between the UAE and Italy in military fields. He expressed his country's readiness to extend technical expertise in this regard.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum accepted an invitation from the Italian minister to visit Rome. The date of this visit will be fixed later.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum, under secretary of the Ministry of Defense; and Brig Gen Shaykh Buti ibn Maktum al-Maktum. The meeting was also attended by the Italian ambassador to the country and the delegation accompanying the Italian minister.

The Italian defense minister arrived in the country earlier today on a visit to the UAE during which he will inspect the Italian naval units stationed in the Gulf.

He was received at Dubayy International Airport by Brig Gen Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum, under secretary of the Ministry of Defense; and a number of senior ministry and Armed Forces officers. He was also received by the Italian ambassador to the country.

The Italian delegation is accompanied by a military delegation representing various corps.

His Highness Shaykh Muhammad al-Maktum also received in his office this morning General (Louis), chief of staff of the French Air Force, who is currently visiting the country. They discussed spheres of existing cooperation between the UAE and France and means to promote this cooperation in a manner enhancing the existing bilateral relations of friendship.

WAM has learned that His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum affirmed to the French official the need to maintain relations of friendship and rapprochement between the Arab countries and France—known for its support for Arab issues in European and international forums.

His highness praised France' stands on the Palestinian Arab people's just cause. Addressing the French official, his highness said: We appreciate the positive stands of France—president, government, and people—on Arab issues in general.

The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid, commander of the Armed Forces and Air Defense; and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, head of the Civil Aviation Department in Dubayy.

The meeting was also attended by the French ambassador to the country and the delegation accompanying the guest official.

Petroleum Minister Leaves Vienna After Talks

JN2511125588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1202 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 25 Nov (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, left Vienna for Rabat today to brief His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, on the sideline deliberations as part of the OPEC ministerial conference currently being held here.

In a predeparture statement, Dr al-'Utaybah said he will return to Vienna tomorrow to attend the OPEC ministerial council's final session after the member states agreed to redistribute the production quotas as part of a new ceiling which will not exceed 18.5 million barrels a day.

He voiced optimism over the possibility of reaching a collective OPEC agreement to protect oil prices following their recent serious decline.

Saddam Husayn Returns From Visit to Egypt
JN2911072488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad at dawn today following a short working visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

President Saddam Husayn was accorded an official farewell at Cairo International Airport headed by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Also present to bid farewell to President Saddam Husayn were People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and senior government and military officials.

President Saddam Husayn and Husni Mubarak held a press conference at Cairo Airport in which they praised fraternal relations between the peoples of the two countries, Egypt and Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn and his accompanying delegation were received upon arrival in Baghdad by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

Government Urges UN 'To Reject' U.S. Decision
JN2911083388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Iraq yesterday urged the UN General Assembly to reject the U.S. decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations.

Iraq's UN representative, 'Ismat Kittani, who was addressing the Relations With the Host Country Committee, which is holding an emergency session in New York, said that the U.S. decision is a slap in the face of every UN member state and the United States should reverse this decision.

He added that this committee should take a decisive stand on this action—considered a flagrant violation of the host country's obligations.

He pointed out that the member states should not only deal with the consequences of this action but with the action itself. He said that it is a source of concern for all the member states if the United States will reverse this decision, which constitutes a serious precedent.

He was astonished by that the host country has taken upon itself to decide who has and does not have the right to come to the United Nations. He stressed that the decision was based on some political pressures on the U.S. Administration.

Culture Minister Comments on Rafsanjani Remarks
JN2611195488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1839 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has asserted that Iraq—forcefully working to achieve peace as it has expressed since the beginning of the war—will confront the evil intentions of the Iranian regime. He also asserted that this regime will be responsible for the consequences of its stands and actions.

This came in the culture and information minister's comment on statements made by Hashemi-Rafsanjani [speaker of Iranian Majles and commander in chief of the Armed Forces] in a meeting with the mobilization commanders and in a Friday sermon broadcast yesterday by Tehran Radio in which he said that mobilization in Iran is not for war, but, basically, to prevent war.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said: The Iranian officials used to employ deceptive methods to cover their evil intentions in dirty ways. In the comment he made to INA, the minister wondered how the mobilization can take place and statements be made about it if it is not for aggressive intentions against Iraq and why it is taking place at the current time when negotiations are being made to prepare for peace.

The minister described Rafsanjani's statements as new pedantry with which he wants to cover evil aggressive intentions. By these statements, he has shown that there is no real belief in peace by adopting a backward logic which claims that mobilization prevents war.

At the conclusion of his comment, the culture and information minister said: The Iranian regime will be responsible before world public opinion, the Iranian people, and history, for its actions, statements, and the consequences of adopting such deceptive methods to achieve aggressive goals.

Government To 'Respect' New OPEC Agreement
JN2711095588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has affirmed that Iraq will respect OPEC's agreement once it goes into effect.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Vienna, he said that OPEC can have a compromise solution regarding a new production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day [bpd], including Iraq's quota.

The minister added: Iraq will scrupulously respect its production quota in any agreement that goes into effect. We are awaiting the results of the consultations being conducted by Iranian [Petroleum] Minister Aqazadeh with his government so that the agreement can go into effect.

I believe that the agreement contains a production quota for all OPEC members who will approve this agreement according to its articles.

'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim pointed out that the Iraqi and Iranian quotas which amount to 2.164 million bpd each was agreed upon by the ministers. He said: The average base price of $18 per barrel will remain the official price. We will work to achieve that price as soon as possible. He said that this objective might be achieved within several months.

The minister added that the end of the extremely difficult times has approached. He said that many complicated issues have remained unresolved. The minister continued: I believe that we were able to resolve many issues. Therefore, OPEC will be enhanced by the end of this conference.

Fraternity Document Signed With Cairo 26 Nov
JN2611155288 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 26 INA—Mr.'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) today attended here a ceremony on signing a document for fraternity between the Iraqi and Egyptian capitals, Baghdad and Cairo.

In speeches exchanged by the mayors of the two capitals on the occasion said the document culminates existing relations between them and a large-scale bilateral cooperation.

The fraternity document's text said that its signing was in appreciation to the important role played by municipalities of Arab towns and the organization of Arab towns for boosting ties of brotherhood and friendship and establishing good relations among Arab towns and their inhabitants in addition to promoting spirit of respect, understanding and cooperation exchanged among brethren.

Ramadan Receives USSR, U.S. Ambassadors
JN2611151688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1323 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Soviet Ambassador Victor Minin here yesterday. They reviewed relations between the two countries, expressed satisfaction with their development, and stressed their desire to expand them in the various areas in the interest of the two friendly countries.

Ramadan also recveived U.S. Ambassador in Baghgdad April Glaspie, who has assumed her office in Baghdad. They reviewed bilateral relations during the meeting.

Vice President Returns From FRG, Austria
JN2711184088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, and his accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad this afternoon after a week-long official visit to the FRG and Austria.

During the visit, Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf held talks with officials in both countries on Iraq's relations with them and ways to promote them as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

The vice president's delegation conprised the National Assembly deputy speaker, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Culture and Information, and the Ministry of Trade.

Agricultural Minister Returns From Turkey
JN2511132588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Karim Hasan Rida, agriculture and irrigation minister, and the accompanying delegation returned here at dawn today following a visit to Turkey lasting several days.

The minister held talks with a number of Turkish officials dealing with bilateral cooperation in the agricultural and irrigation fields and ways to promote it in the future.

He also attended the Iraqi-Turkish-Syrian ministerial meeting which was held there. This meeting was devoted to organizing the water resources among the three countries and resulted in the formation of a technical committee entrusted with working out the bases to organize these resources. The committee will hold four periodic meetings next year to accomplish this mission.

Paper Cited on U.S. 'Submission' to Israel
JN2811131488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH affirms that the U.S. decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to the pan-Arab causes, particularly the Palestine question. [sentence as received]

In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH says that this U.S. decision is a link in the chain of the blind biased stands to the Zionist entity and an entrenchment of that entity's occupation of Arab territory.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This decision exposes the U.S. Administration's submission to Zionist pressures on decisionmaking as a superpower dealing with an issue that constitutes a state of tension and threat to security in one of the important regions in the world.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the U.S. decision opposes the democratic method applied at the United Nations according to its charter. This decision is also considered an insult to the UN members as well as a clear disregard of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Arab and international reactions to this decision were encouraging and a sign of the unity of confrontation of this decision.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says Iraq has always called for dealing with pressing Arab causes, such as the Palestine question, through developing Arab stands based on common Arab action.

Likud Offers Alignment Defense, Foreign Affairs
TA2811183788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Report by Razi Barqay]

[Text] Good evening from the Prime Minister's Office. The meeting between the Likud's Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens and the Alignment's Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin ended a few minutes ago. We were told by officials in the Prime Minister's Office that in the meeting Mr Shamir made the following proposals to the Alignment:

He offered them two of the major portfolios—one of course is the defe se portfolio for Yitzhaq Rabin, and the other is the foreign affairs portfolio for Shim'on Peres. We heard from Yitzhaq Shamir's aides that he prefers that Shim'on Peres become foreign minister rather than finance minister. That is one proposal.

The second proposal is the setting up of a political inner cabinet which would give parity to ministers of both parties, but the Prime Minister's Office stressed that it would be a political inner cabinet. It would not deal with all issues on which there might be disagreements in the government, only political issues.

I asked the prime minister's aides whether, for instance, the issue of settlements would be raised in this inner cabinet. They said that it has not been decided yet.

Mr Shamir's third proposal to the Alignment was that the Likud would have one more minister than the Alignment overall so that should there be any problems which are brought to the government for a decision, the Likud would a priori assure itself of a majority.

A few minutes ago, I heard a some remarks by Shim'on Peres when he left the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Peres] The meeting was businesslike. We were made several offers. We are not in a position to provide answers because we do not have a mandate from the party to do that. We will bring the proposals we heard to the appropriate party forums.

[Barqay] The Likud is proposing, for instance, that the number of their ministers should be larger than the number of your ministers. Is that acceptable to you?

[Peres] I do not want to expand on that question because I do not plan to report on what was offered to us.

[Barqay] Were you offered the foreign affairs or finance portfolio?

[Peres] What I said before also holds true for that question.

[Barqay] Mr Peres, after this meeting, are you more optimistic over the chances of setting up a unity government?

[Peres] I have come out more informed.

[Barqay] What are the next moves for the Labor Party?

[Peres] Consultations in the party forums. [end recording]

That was all Shim'on Peres was prepared to tell us after the meeting. He hurried to a Labor Party ministers' meeting, to which he is reporting at this moment on the results of the meeting with the Likud leaders.

We must point out that the Labor Party decided last week that any official Alignment-Likud negotiations require the approval of the party's bureau and perhaps its central committee. The party leaders therefore cannot finalize anything with the Likud without discussing and approving them with the party forums beforehand.

Alignment Recommends Talks on Unity Government
TA2811185088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The Alignment ministers, who just ended their meeting, agreed that negotiations with the Likud on a broad-based government should begin. The Labor Party bureau will convene on Wednesday to decide whether to give the green light to negotiations with the Likud. [passage omitted]

USSR's Gerasimov: Tamir in Moscow as 'Tourist'
TA2911092788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 88 p 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] "We have so many tourists here, it's very hard to keep track of all of them" said Soviet spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov last night in a wry reaction to Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir's controversial visit to Moscow.

It was learned yesterday that, before taking off for Moscow from Amsterdam on Sunday, Tamir disregarded an explicit request from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that he call off the visit.

Tamir met yesterday with officials of the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, which hosts the Israeli delegation there. He also examined the operations and Moscow living quarters of the delegation, and went on a tour of the city.

Contrary to yesterday's statement in Jerusalem by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who said Tamir would be in Moscow for only 36 hours, the director-general will leave for home on Wednesday morning.

In a telephone interview, Gerasimov said Tamir was in Moscow "as a private citizen, as a tourist." He acknowledged, however, that his Foreign Ministry's consular department, which issued Tamir's tourist visa, had been aware of the visit several days in advance.

Gerasimov said no official meetings were planned for the Israeli. He added drily, "He is probably taking in the sights in Moscow. Perhaps he has some relatives here whom he would like to visit. I do not know about his plans, perhaps you can ask him. The only problem with his visit that I can see is that there is a big shortage of hotel accommodations in Moscow."

Angry Foreign Ministry officials demanded yesterday that Tamir be dismissed on his return. Well-placed sources said if Peres became foreign minister in a new broad-based government, he would probably not reappoint Tamir. The sources added, however, that such a development was already expected and would not be connected with the current uproar.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 29 November reports that "Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, says that as far back as several months ago, he and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres agreed that Tamir would visit all the Israeli representations in East Europe, including Warsaw, Budapest, and Moscow, and this is what he did.

He told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that 2 days before he left for Moscow he still did not have an entry visa, but he did not do anything clandestinely or under cover of darkness, and those who had to know about the trip did. Mr Tamir expressed the hope that the misunderstanding, if such was indeed the case, has been settled. He noted that his trip had no political goal and that he only wanted to visit the Israeli delegation in Moscow, which operates under difficult conditions."]

Hungarian Deputy Minister, Delegation Arrive

TA2611193988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Andras Patko, Hungarian deputy finance minister, who arrived in Israel tonight as head of a commercial delegation, says that his country hopes that the closer economic relations with Israel will enhance political ties between the two countries.

The 200-member delegation represents the Hungarian Government and large companies. It arrived on two Tupolev planes of the Hungarian airline Malev on the first routine Budapest-Israel flight.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the delegation will participate in the Hungary Week activities starting at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel tomorrow. The events will include a folklore group and a team of cooks, who arrived with the delegation and will prepare Hungarian delicacies.

The Hungarian government representatives will meet with government officials in Jerusalem and discuss further economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Upgrade in Ties With Turkey 'Difficult' at Present

TA2911114988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 88 p 12

[Report by REUTER and Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Ankara (REUTER)—Turkey is likely to agree to any request from Israel and the newly-proclaimed Palestinian state to upgrade their diplomatic ties with Ankara to ambassadorial level, an official source said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Officials in Jerusalem said that while Israel wished to upgrade diplomatic ties with Turkey, it did not wish to do so in tandem with a similar move between Turkey and a Palestinian state. "As long as the two are tied together it will be very difficult for us to react seriously and talk about it," one official said.

Foreign Ministry sources said last night that the rumours of the impending Turkish move are probably meant to placate the U.S. Congress.

The sources said that the Turkish move would be welcomed under other circumstances. As it is, Turkey had disappointed Israel by being the first non-Arab country, and the first with diplomatic relations with Israel, to recognize the Palestinian state. Turkey, the sources said, had not even lived up to its own commitment to recognize the Palestinian state only after all [italics as published] Arab countries had recognized it.

Ben-Aharon: U.S. To Maintain Close Contacts

TA2911071888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Contacts are under way to organize a meeting between Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and the Lubavitche rebbe in New York. Ben-Aharon may even try to persuade the rebbe to drop his ultimatum on the Who Is a Jew amendment.

In any event, Ben-Aharon will arrive in New York today at the end of a series of talks he held in Washington with the members of the outgoing and incoming administrations. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from Washington:

According to Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, the officials of the new administration promised to continue to maintain close contacts, which will be reflected in consultations with Israel regarding political moves in the Middle East.

Ben-Aharon conferred with Dr (Denny Soron), a member of the George Bush transition team who coordinates foreign and security matters and who is slated to be appointed deputy chairman of the National Security Council.

Mr Ben-Aharon also spoke on the telephone with John Sununu, the designated White House chief of staff, and described their talk as very good.

In answer to my question, Mr Ben-Aharon said he conveyed the prime minister's thoughts—the prime minister's political calling card—to his interlocutors. At the same time, contacts have begun on organizing a working visit to the United States for the prime minister, as soon after President Bush's inauguration as possible.

In a talk with Assistant Secretary of State Charles Hill, Ben-Aharon conveyed an oral message from Mr Shamir in which the prime minister thanked Secretary Shultz for his decision to deny PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa.

As stated, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office may confer in New York with the Lubavitche rebbe. Contacts have been under way to organize a meeting upon his arrival in New York. It is important to emphasize that the go-ahead has not yet been given by the rebbe's court.

Parties Make Counterproposals to Law of Return

TA2311184388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Citizens Rights Movement has tabled a proposed amendment in the Knesset for the Law of Return. According to this proposal, a Jew is a person who declares himself in good faith to be a Jew, someone who has Jewish parents, someone who belongs to the Jewish community, or someone who is registered as a Jew in his country of origin.

The Center-Shinuy Party is proposing a law that will make all the different streams of Judaism equal. Labor Knesset Member Mikha'el Bar-Zohar is proposing a law that will forbid the Knesset from enacting laws on religious matters.

Lahd 'Still Hooked Up to Life-Support System'

TA2911061288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The condition of South Lebanese Army Commander General Antoine Lahd is said to be stable, after the assassination attempt against him 3 weeks ago. Doctors at Rambam Hospital say his vital systems are functioning properly, but his recovery is slow.

Lahd is still hooked up to a life-support system. Doctors say they expect him to make a complete recovery.

Sharon, Rabin Clash in Cabinet Meeting

TA2711103588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] In the Cabinet meeting today, the ministers heard reports by the defense minister and IDF officers. Ari'el Sharon expressed his dissatisfaction with the fact that the security forces were instructed to contain hostile activity but not to eliminate it completely. Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked: To eliminate—do you mean like in Lebanon? Sharon responded: I prefer not to comment on that remark.

The ministers were also briefed by the civil service commissioner on the implementation of a 5-day workweek in the public service.

Paratroopers Jailed for 'Reprisal' in Qalandiyah

TA2511055188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Twenty paratroopers from the unit who ran amok in the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem earlier this week have been sentenced to 2 weeks in prison, due to begin this morning.

The incident occurred after a bus carrying the paratroopers was stoned near the camp and one soldier was lightly injured. The paratroopers admitted to having damaged cars and other property.

Reservist Jailed for Refusal To Serve in Gaza

TA2511175088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A reserve soldier from Jerusalem who refused to serve in the Gaza Strip has been sentenced to 28 days in prison. The soldier is 36-year-old Staff Sargent David Golan.

The spokesman of the Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] group told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that Jewish organizations and peace groups from the United States, as well as from Britain, Italy, and Austria have offered to adopt the Yesh Gvul refuseniks.

One of the American organizations has adopted David Golan, whose family will leave for the United States in a few days.

Details Reported on Navy's New Dvora Patrol Boat

TA2411201788 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 23 Nov 88 pp 19, 20

[Report by Sarit Rosenblum]

[Excerpts] Since its launching the Dvora patrol boat has set sail 10 times and has demonstrated its versatility to a large number of engineers and seamen who examined it meticulously. The life of a newly-commissioned boat is difficult.

This tiny boat, with a length of only 21.8 meters and a displacement (fully loaded) of 50 tons, is impressively called by the Navy "the field security ship of the 21st century." Gradually, within 5 years, it is slated to replace the Dabur patrol boats. [passage omitted]

After 6 months of deliberations, the technical requirements of this boat were worked out, and agreement was reached on its design and construction. This resulted in the best possible design for the operational tasks for which the boat was planned. And indeed, today's Dvora meets and even exceeds these demands.

Its maximum speed exceeds 36 knots, while the Dabur's maximum speed is only about 20 knots. It carries over 10,000 liters of fuel, and is operated by two German-built MTU diesel engines, each having 2,000 horse power. This is the same company that manufactured the engines for Israeli Navy missile boats.

The hydroelectric steering system of the boat is operated with relative ease, and is capable of quick reaction. The system responsible for pumping bilge water is operated automatically, unlike the Dabur boat where one of the crew members must routinely check its operation. The propulsion system, too, is controlled automatically. [passage omitted]

Regarding its weaponry, it has the same weapons as the Dabur. Besides light weapons, the Dvora is equipped with two 20-millimeter guns, one at the bow and one at the stern, and two MAG's [general-purpose machine guns], one on each side of the bridge. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 24 November reports: "Our military affairs correspondent notes that the boat is scheduled to perform daily patrols along Israel's shores. It was manufactured at the Israel Aircraft Industries' RAMTA factory and was devised as an answer to the fast vessels purchased by terrorist organizations. According to foreign reports, Israel has sold Dvora boats to Sri Lanka."]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 24 November also reports on the new Dvora boat of the Israel Navy adding that "besides routine security activity, the Dvora is also intended to carry out missions involved in area [shetah in Hebrew] warfare, as well as antisubmarine warfare.

The boat is equipped with two Oerlikon guns and two MAG's for routine security tasks. The boat can also accommodate additional guns and a rocket launcher. It can also be armed with depth bombs and antisubmarine torpedoes. The Dvora can stay at sea for up to 72 hours, and its range of operation is 700 miles."]

Further on Disturbances, Curfews in Territories

House of 'Activist' Sealed Off

TA2811123488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces sealed off the house of one of the activists of the popular committees at Bayt Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man, Yadid Wahi, was detained 3 months ago and charged with heading a popular committee in his village and throwing Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers.

13 'Terrorist Squads' Exposed

TA2811174388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Thirteen terrorist squads were discovered during an extensive investigation conducted recently by security forces in Judaea and Samaria. The squads are believed to be responsible for dozens of terrorist acts, including the throwing of a fire bomb at an IDF jeep in October in Tulkarm that resulted in the injury of 3 soldiers, one of whom suffered severe wounds; the hurling of fire bombs at buses and other Israeli civilian and Army vehicles; the placing of bombs; the shooting at an IDF unit that resulted in the death of a young girl from the Al-'Arrub refugee camp and the injury of an IDF soldier; and attempts to hurt people they believed collaborated with Israel.

IDF forces today demolished 10 houses belonging to the squads members and sealed 3 others. Two terrorist cells were uncovered in the Hebron District, one in the village of Bayt Immar, and one other in the Al-'Arrub refugee camp. The Bayt Immar squad members are suspected of throwing firebombs at IDF patrols some 2 months ago and last month.

Curfew Extended in Gaza Strip

TA2911054188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The IDF extended the curfew in the Gaza Strip this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a curfew was clamped on neighborhoods in several towns, including Sabra and Al-Shaja'iyah in Gaza, as well as on the village of 'Abasan. A strike is under way in the Gaza Strip this morning in response to the call of the Islamic Resistance Movement and the PFLP.

A bottle containing acid was thrown at an IDF patrol in Khan Yunus yesterday. Nobody was hurt. The soldiers on the patrol opened fire at the assailant, but he managed to escape.

Bands of Youths Patrol Casbah

TA2911110488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In clashes yesterday between troops and protesters in the Nabulus casbah, three young men were wounded, and a fourth was wounded in a separate clash, local hospital officials said. The IDF confirmed two casualties.

Youths burned tyres and raised Palestinian flags in the casbah, where residents reported that bands of masked youths wielding axes and sticks had been patrolling the quarter as a makeshift police force, beating suspected "collaborators" and criminals and vandalizing their stores. [passage omitted]

The curfews in the Gaza Strip, which confined 330,000 people to their homes, prevented clashes with troops. Nonetheless, one person was shot following a brief stoning incident in Gaza.

Settlers Patrol W. Bank Roads

TA2911054888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Beginning today, Jewish settlers in Samaria are carrying out patrols in vehicles displaying flags and signs bearing their identification. The settlers decided to initiate the patrols after continuing attacks by Arab residents on their vehicles. The settlers say they plan to send their Arab neighbors a message that will stop them from throwing stones at Israeli cars.

The head of Central Command, General 'Amram Mitzna', says the Army will increase patrols in the Qalqilyah area. In a meeting with settlers from Ginnot Shomron in Samaria, Mitzna' said he would work toward opening a new road bypassing Qalqilyah by the end of the year. Mitzna' also promised that Israeli cars passing through Qalqilyah at night would be given an Army escort.

Hamas 'Activist' Arrested

TA2411202388 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the security forces recently arrested Shaykh Bassam Jarrar, a resident of Al-Birah. Security sources told our correspondent that Shaykh Bassam Jarrar is a senior activist of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Judea and Samaria.

Nabulus Resident's Deportation Canceled

TA2911093388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has rescinded the deportation order issued against Sirhan 'Uthman Duwaykat of Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the consultative committee of the Central Command heard appeals by four residents slated for deportation and recommended that the order against Duwaykat be replaced with another administrative measure.

As for the other three appellants, the committee recommended that deportation proceedings continue. The commander of the Central Command has accepted the committee's recommendation and has canceled the deportation order against Duwaykat and replaced it with a 6-month administrative detention.

Al-Shati' Woman's Death Proved Criminal

TA2511170888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces' investigation into the death of Nawal Abu Sawuriyah from the Al-Shati refugee camp reveals that her shooting was motivated by criminal factors.

Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned from security sources that the 50-year-old woman was known to be involved in drug trafficking. Her body was left at the entrance to one of Gaza's hospitals yesterday. Arab sources charged that she had been shot by soldiers. As previously said, however, the investigation has proved that the murder was due to criminal causes.

Jewish Population in Territories Increases

TA2411173288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Nov 88 p A15

[Report by Yosi Greenstein]

[Text] "The Jewish population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza (including Ma'ale Adummim) has increased by 69,000 people since 1977, and totals 74,000 today, while at the same time, the number of residents in the Negev has increased by only 12,000 people, which is a result of natural increase rather than in-migration." These facts were stated by the economics and planning and communications minister in a lecture on the development of the Negev at a seminar at the Settlement Research Center in Rehovot.

He warned that the Negev is in a state of recession today. Out-migration from the Negev alone has amounted to about 22,000 people over the last 10 years (1978-1988).

He added that while out-migration from the Galilee and the Negev has totaled about 18,000 people over the last 3 years, there has been an in-migration of about 17,000 people into Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

According to Mr Ya'aqobi, this phenomenon has grown worse since the establishment in 1977 of a Likud government, which established a distorted order of priorities and preferred investments and settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza at the expense of the Negev and the Galilee.

Dutch Ambassador to Egypt Discusses Gaza Exports

TA2611203288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The Netherlands ambassador to Egypt arrived in Gaza yesterday to discuss with local citrus growers the problems they are encountering with their direct exports to the EEC. This was reported by the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-NAHAR.

The first shipment of grapefruit from Gaza, which is part of the 16 tonnes stipulated for this year, is due to leave Ashdod port tomorrow. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that Arab residents have complained that last week's curfews in Gaza had harmed the preparations for the citrus exports. They said that they intend to lodge a complaint with the EEC.

The EEC carefully watches the implementation of this agreement for direct exports from the territories to Europe.

King Husayn Addresses Development Symposium

JN2811183088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1623 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Speech by King Husayn inaugurating comprehensive development symposium at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman on 28 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Brothers and sisters; dear citizens:

My best compliments. It gives me pleasure to open this auspicious national meeting which crowns a series of meetings in the Kingdom's various regions. I wish your deliberations and discussions every success as this takes place as Jordan enters a new phase in its economic life—a phase of maturity and takeoff—whose essence is enhanced quality and distinctive services as well as supporting and boosting production with the arms of our working sons and spirit of innovative investors in the context of a united cooperating society that keeps an open mind and maintains contacts with the Arab homeland and the world.

I also applaud your efforts—which I have followed—in the central, southern and northern regions. Hopefully your work will contribute to crystallizing a full picture of what we aspire to be in the year 2000. I have fervent hopes that we, in this courageous country, will be able to muster our strength and call up our resolve to work together in one line in order to achieve the desired advancement and be able to face and weather challenges; and then move beyond them to wider horizons and a bright future, God willing.

Brothers and sisters, we are these days standing on the threshhold of a new stage that requires us to make a comprehensive evaluation of our economic march in order to bolster and build on our accomplishments and identify and tackle the shortcomings and limitations. For us to realize this, we must reiterate our position on the constants of economic freedom associated with social justice and deliberate new developments to reach a common perception reflecting our common aspirations.

The technique of dialogue you have adopted in your meetings was exemplary in its openness and the coherence of its sectoral ideas. The solid continuation of the economic march—free from any contradictions, and in a climate permeated with faith in a unified aim and destiny—positivity, and enthusiasm, is ensured by this approach.

What we have achieved in Jordan up till now deserves pride and dignity. It is no shame for us to admit a deficiency here or a mistake there. Those who do not err are those who do not achieve anything. Our fate has forced us to face big reponsibilities. We have shouldered them with honesty and determination. A quick review of what we have faced in the political, economic, and military arena, and since the establishment of modern Jordan, reveals to us basic facts which we should be fully aware of so that they remain as examples before us. Those who do not study their history cannot pass fair judgement on their present or plan for the future. We, in this free and proud country, are students of history, builders of the present, and manufacturers of the future.

Since its establishment, Jordan has faced very big challenges. It found itself in a struggle with very difficult circumstances which came about through international and regional interactions. Modern Jordan started its history after World War I. The results which came about due to the agreements between the colonialist countries drove us into the arena of international conflict and the greediness of the then superpowers.

My grandfather, the late King 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, had a penetrating mind and piercing vision. He managed, despite all difficulties and hardships, to start building Jordan by relying on his faithful family and the Arab capacities which participated in the Great Arab Revolt and had faith in its principles. He always believed that the scarcity of natural resources in Jordan would be an obstacle to achieving ambitions. This however, did not prevent him from establishing a country with a moderate policy, clear direction, and established on the bases of faith, work, and a creative mind.

The thirties were a stage of world stagnation and we suffered from that bitterly. Then came World War II with all its harshness and ferocity during which we faced very difficult conditions. This, however, did not stop the government from doing everything it could to provide the Jordanian people with the basis of an honorable life. We managed to establish many institutions and create an atmosphere of coexistence and cooperation among the sons of the same nation.

The war ended with Jordan gaining independence and declaring in 1946 an independent Hashemite kingdom with its own constitution, institutions, army, and all the other components which make up a real country.

In 1948 we waged an unequal war and Israel was established on part of Palestine. We paid a tax with our blood and money, and we kept Jerusalem and much of Palestinian land free and Arab. When I assumed responsibility after my late father His Majesty King Talal ibn 'Abdallah, I took it upon myself to raise the banner of the Great Arab Revolt within the framework of a clear-cut trend and moderate policy.

It was clear to me from the beginning that Jordan's strength prompts it to build its economy. Because of the scarcity of natural resources, that was not an easy matter. Many people also aroused doubts about this country's ability to build a dynamic and advanced economy. We

found that the scarcity of the resources and the multiplicity of the burdens in their development and defensive aspects can be overcome through persistent work, continuous efforts, and faith in God and in ourselves. On this basis, we moved in the march of good and building.

But matters were not easy. Whenever we saw a breakthrough in our situation, we were surprised by a new problem or heated developments in our region. We confronted all of this with an honest will, a firm and faithful heart, and a flexible contrivance. The July 1967 war erupted, and Israel occupied the rest of Palestine. We faced growing burdens because of the occupation. Our economic situation retreated until 1972.

No sooner were we out of a crisis than we faced another one. But these events and crises strengthened our determination and gave us an excellent ability to handle difficult circumstances. With God's help, we managed to overcome every crisis, and we proved that we are such a coherent and unified people that no ordeal weakens us and nothing can distract our attention from our goals, however complicated or difficult they appear.

I entrusted my brother, His Highness Prince Hasan, and my loyal crown prince with the task of reconstruction. Due to his active nature, devotion, extensive education, and deep learning, he managed to arouse the good trends, work, and activity in the sons of this honest country. Jordan managed to reach an economic equation that placed it on the path of steady growth. Even the challenges which accompanied the difficult years during the rise of oil prices were also overcome, and we achieved ideal growth rates without breaching the social structure.

We completed the establishment of the infrastructure in order to build institutions, universities, and hospitals. We also built roads, bridges, dams, schools, and water, electricity, and communications networks and expanded the basis of production in the agricultural, industrial, touristic, and banking areas. We provided food and medicine for the citizen, enabled him to get a house, and expanded the basis of social security in order to guarantee an honorable life for the Jordanian citizen in all stages of his life.

What we built did not come from a vacuum. What we are now enjoying did not come free of charge. Every stone we raised and built tells a long story about the struggle of one generation after another. It also tells the story of sacrifices which the sons of the homeland offered with blood sometines and with effort and sweat at other times. What we built in the form of a developed contemporary state will, despite all difficulties, remain a wealth for our children and grandchildren.

We do not accept retreat, defeatism, weakness, or bowing before any transient circumstances no matter how tough and severe they are. We are a state that takes pride in its sons and institutions. Our state will not allow a transient situation to wreck what has been built throughout many years of hard work and effort.

Brothers and sisters, what we have achieved so far with the help of God has placed us on the threshold of a new stage which we are preparing to cross with confidence and reassurance. Among the most important requisites of success at this stage is perhaps building on the positive aspects and renouncing the negative ones. If we count the positive aspects, we will find that they are many. If we remember the blessings God has conferred upon us, we will find out that they are countless.

We enjoy a unique regional and international good name. We take pride in the fact that the world refers to our country as a true example of good management and splendid accomplishment. Our moderate, rational, and balanced line earned us the others' confidence that we are qualified and capable of balanced and constant growth. Due to this confidence, Jordan has become the meeting place of brothers and friends who receive from the people of this country and on its pure soil all that they wish for in terms of an ample, tolerant atmosphere for solving their problems, ironing out their differences, and accomplishing their work.

As for the other countries, we are linked with most of them in a relationship of trust and cooperation, enhanced by our significant strategic position. We must transfer this confidence and this balanced line into assets that bring us and all those dealing with us abundant good and welfare.

Among the prominent positive points is the fact that our people are educated, enlightened, and capable of creative work. The Jordanian citizen did not deprive himself of education and science or the need to get more of them. Neither did he do himself injustice by resorting to negligence and laziness.

Therefore, we have to build a productive economy that utilizes these qualifications, values, and capabilities, in order to build the society of production in a manner that is open to the world and its sciences, administrations, and institutions.

We also should consider the political climate in which we live. Despite the tests it has been through, Jordanian society has neither veered to extremism nor has it put itself in rigid frameworks. It remained centrist and moderate and resorted to reason. We thank God that the relationship between the ruler and the ruled is based on trust and tolerance. With God's help and will, we have avoided the social drawbacks which result from rigid class stratification.

Every one of us has a chance to ascend the social ladder, depending on his capabilities and creativity. This healthy and secure climate has become a rare example in this troubled world. This is a great asset, which we

should protect regardless of the enemies' plots against us, because it constitutes the best basis that opens the horizons without fear, boredom, or pessimism.

Regarding our Arab and regional arenas, we maintain cordial and stable relations with our brothers in the Arab world. We view ourselves, throughout our march, as an indivisible part of the greater Arab homeland and also as part of the Arab countries. We treat our homeland in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt and we preserved that in all our pledges, charters, and agreements. No one knew at all that we had breached a single pledge, refrained from carrying out a duty, or avoided an honorable action.

The brothers reciprocated our love and cordiality. We are in the heart of the Arab order in doctrine and behavior and we are eager to preserve it. We do not say this out of any selfish material gain, but out of belief that this order will promote the Arabs' position in the world, strengthen them, and open the way for them to achieve advancement and reach the position they deserve in this world.

I have called for the need to revive Arab economic integration, especially under these circumstances in which the world's various areas have found acceptable formulas for healthy, integral, and useful treatment. We the Arabs are better suited for forming a regional unity of our economy because we have one fate, one history, one religion, one language, and one heritage. We should activate these factors.

Other nations achieved much with less factors. Europe, for example, has found an advanced formula for cooperation despite the difference in its peoples' languages, histories, cultures and despite their ancient and modern histories which are full of strife and wars.

Jordan's faith in unity does not emanate solely from sentiment, but also from a clear vision of the requisites of the future and what it entails in terms of challenges and difficulties. Arab economic integration constitutes a pillar for overall Arab order, and we in Jordan must abide by this in our plans and programs and be strong advocates of it in thought and deed in order to attain this desired goal.

Throughout the past decades, Jordan built a wealth which accumulated from one generation to another until this wealth became a strong base for building a modern Jordan and a productive economy capable of providing capabilities in order to meet the present needs and build for the good and welfare of the coming generations. Our fathers cultivated the land so that we may eat and we cultivate the land so that our children may eat. The building process, as we have learned from experience, will certainly be exposed to temporary shakeups reaching it from abroad by virtue of our close ties with and openness to the world.

We must build the intrinsic administrative capability of confronting and containing new developments so that these will not delay the steady march. Our institutions should play their effective role in a regular and integrated manner in order to defend gains in the face of temporary shakeups. The required change basically depends on behavior and trends. The country which takes a liking to excessive consumption will eat up its present and future. Moderate consumption which preserves economic momentum and backs savings conforms with our morals, habits, and traditions.

Jordan can cut down expenditures because it is aware that extravagance is not a personal affair, but a price paid by society as a whole. We must devise the means to back up savings and investment so that we can build the promising future. We want investment to be open for every honorable citizen, whether he is working inside or outside Jordan and on an equal footing. Regardless of our positions, we are all equal in the productive, constructive work and in reaping its fruit.

Extravagance is not confined to consumption. There is extravagance in investment expenditure. We must always remember that the feasible investment project is the one which is set up and run with the least possible cost. There is no need of excessive expenditure on unproductive elements or of changing the size of the project in a manner with which it loses its competitive ability. Instead of buying we must learn the value of maintenance, and instead of adding a new machine we must exploit the present machinery in order to make the maximum use of what is available.

Amidst all this and that, we have to devise the means to exploit our natural resources and our scientific and research capacities. We should also excel in providing the high quality products which give the consumer inside and outside Jordan a just and fair substitute for the price.

Controlling expenditures on the individual and family levels and on the institution and factory levels is what decreases our dependence on imports, strengthens our ability to export, and provides the money required to build new edifices. The nations which boast of their excessive expenditures and unchecked luxury deprive themselves of the chances for continuous growth and place themselves hostage to the whims of others.

We are an alert people and know the chances of cheap financing. We also realize that these chances have diminished and it is impossible from now on to spend uncontrollably or in an unproductive way. We have to instill in our citizen the virtue of giving to his country, caring for and protecting its resources, volunteering for good deeds, feeling pride in the good God has provided us, and being fully aware of all the blessings he has at his disposal.

There are alot of things toward which we could direct the potential of the youth. It is not right that the citizen remains isolated from the needs of his country. There is a great deal of potential among the youth, the retired, the women, and students, which could be transformed into a tremendous force to serve the needs of the country in agriculture, forestation, preserving the environment, and social work.

We have to create comprehensive programs to open up the productive job opportunities for these potentials. The faith in his country and the future of a citizen who is occupied in his country's issues theoretically and not only practically, cannot be shattered. To ensure wide participation in the development efforts and the just distribution of their yield, we have to attempt to achieve a balance between the population distribution on the one hand and geographic distribution of the resources on the other hand. These two dimensions deserve all the attention and care we could give them.

Jordan, as you know, still has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, and according to United Nations statistics, ranks second in the world in birth rate. Regardless of the population size, the increase in the birth rate poses great challenges, one of which is the rise in the percentage of children and what they need continuously, such as housing, education, health care, job opportunities, and other such requirements for an honorable life.

So long as the population distribution remains concentrated in the capital and its suburbs, we will be depriving ourselves of the chances to exploit the natural resources and the production possibilities open in all of Jordan's regions.

Hence, we should adopt a development policy to grant the regions opportunities for growth which can bring them to the highest degrees of production. Such growth will also enable the regions to interact with the economy. Development efforts in the regions should be accompanied by a clear development in the required financial and administrative dimensions so the efforts will be intrinsic and emanate from the ground on which development projects will be established.

This approach should have clear features and complete arrangements to yield the best results. When talking about regional development, the desert region emerges as a special case which deserves our care. This vast, promising region of our country should be a basic station in our new move. Although vast, it still needs additional development so it will be up to the level of its achievement. Services and facilities should also be available in this region on equal footing with the remainder of Jordanian regions.

The desert and its residents have been a source of pride and confidence. After achieving the infrastructure projects, it is able to be a basic production region in our country and a source of honorable subsistence for many of our sons, particularly those working in our Armed Forces. If the desert turns into an attractive population center, then its future offering will be much larger than any expenditures we will make in it. I look forward to formulating the administrative and development means and arrangements which will secure the realization of this objective.

Development in Jordan is mainly based on this country's man. Therefore, the process of preparing the man and supplying him with the useful knowledge, high training, and tangible capabilities should be given much interest and followup. We were pleased with the national conference on educational development held last year because it implied radical reformation in the educational process itself.

Preparing and training the teacher as well as the provision of appropriate laboratories and buildings and the laying down of advanced curricula are the bases which will secure the success of endeavors in this vital sector. We should teach our children and youths the ability to perform creative work. We should also instill in them good manners and give them a model. If we succeed in this, then we will secure a basic part of the success in the battle of construction and production. We should also supply our higher institutes and young universities with the ability to graduate batches of educated people who enjoy general knowledge and productive specialization.

Higher education should be in harmony with the country's priorities and needs so that it can balance labor supply and demand in order to avoid structural drawbacks in the labor market, the consequent dissipation of money and energies, and any increase in unemployment. Development cannot be complete unless it meets man's needs. The creative and productive citizen expects his homeland to provide his basic needs and reasonable wishes.

Therefore, the management of the social sectors should be basically directed to provide these needs without dissipation or niggardliness. We expect implementation of the social programs to be on the bases of sectoral integration and coordination in order to avoid dissipation and concentrate efforts. The school, the health center, and the youths center should be built to be complete and to move within an orderly framework and a harmonious system to serve the citizen and deepen his sense of belonging.

By this, we can promote the social service from the concept of gain to the concept of participation and giving. We want them to be a stream that takes and gives and also distributes fairly and equally.

The land is the source of wealth. It is not stingy toward those who cultivate it and give it persistent efforts. Adherence to it increases its returns, deepens relationships, and strengthens determination to defend it. Agriculture has been a basic source of production and labor

opportunities. It should be the focus of our interest because it constitutes the axis of the economic process in our countryside. But we have to use our experiences to increase its returns, diversify its products, and use it to support our dependence on ourselves in getting our food.

While we view agriculture as a human and social activity, we should not forget that modern science has developed vital ways which experience has proved that we can absorb and control. We should direct our attention during the coming years to approach self-sufficiency and even produce and export more and more. It is also noteworthy to mention that we should be interested in woods so that we can turn our country into a green, beautiful oasis.

Let the year of 2000, God willing, be a season for celebrating the green Jordan, so that no inch of land is left without investment. Jordanian territory has many values, some of them are known and others have not yet been discovered. Available figures indicate that the sources of energy would have met our needs had it not been for their cost. Our land also includes many elements that can be invested in existing and new industries.

We must look forward to the day when we will be aware of the natural resources we possess, and when we will have a long-term plan to utilize these resources gradually, so that we take from them what we need and leave to the coming generations a reasonable quantity of them. This also requires that we maintain the environment and protect it against water and air polution. In the new stage of development, Jordan must give a bright example of its cleanliness and ability to maintain man's health and environment. We made from water every living thing. [Koranic verse]

Although we achieved great strides in exploiting water resources, and although this vital requirement was made available to most of the citizens, our need of water resources is ever increasing. We ought to establish a national program to identify water resources, determine ways of exploiting them, set methods of maintaining them, and diminish water waste. Water should always remain in the center of our concern due to its extreme effect on our life, production, and future.

Although nature provided us with little material resources, it did not deprive us of its beauty and glamour, in the mountain, valley, coast, and desert. Also, Jordan's geographical location allowed it to be the homeland of various civilizations, whether born in it or flourished on its soil. Marks of beauty and history spreading over Jordan made it a wide elegant museum that attracts people from all over the world and of various interests.

Many countries similar to Jordan, with the same scarcity of resources, succeeded in making up for this by promoting tourism. They achieved much in this respect.

It is now time we concentrated on the tourist sector, not only through making hotels and means of transportation and communication available, but also through good dealing with tourists and visitors and the appropriate training of workers in this sector. Tourism is not a mere financial source for the state, but is also an opportunity to make friends and ambassadors for it.

Brothers and sisters: Through the period we experienced over the past weeks, the importance of self-reliance and the building of national capability has become clear to us. But it also drew our attention to another basic fact—that extravagance will reflect negatively on us. The management of resources and the correct handling of them must be the first preoccupation of our economic managers. We must be fully aware that modern management is not just general views and comprehensive decisions. It also means sensitive decisions that require good organization and response, and quick thinking and planning.

All this depends on the availability of correct data and their competent preparation so as to be accessable to the decision-maker. No official can make solutions without referring to accurate data and adopting correct scientific methodology. Collecting data and classifying them, therefore, is a vital part of the sound economic management process.

Good management requires the provision of a creative atmosphere that unleashes hidden energies and gives them a chance to participate in building the homeland. We do not want the institutions we built to be rigid structures, but active cells of work that give everyone what is rightfully his, that put the right person in the right place, that appreciate the effective producer regardless of his managerial post, that is not lenient with the lazy, obstructing, or corrupt person.

By guaranteeing the specialized capabilities and effective institutions we can change available opportunities into tangible realities. We must learn the good management of financial revenues so that expenditure will go to priorities that serve our aims, surmount obstacles, and bring us closer to the stage of dispensing with loans and aid as much as possible.

You must remember what we spent in this country on education, training, and preparation of manpower. In promotion of the role of science in the process of production, we must pay attention to scientific research and technological development. Jordan can through this sector participate in solving its problems and in playing a leading role in industry and advanced technological services. It can also become a position of distinction capable of serving its nation and helping it fill up the gap separating it from the developed nations.

Thus, you see that we have before us years of continuous and selfless work. This cannot take place except under a climate in which there is a responsible economic freedom and an enlightened individual initiative. The relationship between the individual and the society should be subject to the criteria of the ability to give and exchange benefits.

The stage of dependence on the government as an institution which provides everything to us and which is the basic source of livelihood is over. It is high time for us to rise to the level of helping the government play its role in organizing and balancing the various social strata during the society's continuous movement toward progress and prosperity through ingenuity and production.

The public sector cannot replace the private sector in industry, tourism, trade, agriculture, transport, and other activities. These activities are for the private sector. It is time to rearrange roles between the public and private sectors in a manner compatible with the stage of production and self-sufficiency which requires speed in decisionmaking and authorization of powers instead of concentration of these powers. It also requires organizing the lines of contact between the various departments and institutions in the regions and the capital Amman.

The economic process will be meaningless in a country that is neither secure nor stable. This process will not play its role if we were an easy morsel for those who have ambitions against us. Therefore, building our defensive capabilities remains a basic element in building the economy. If we provide the productive base, we can then give our Armed Forces the chance of depending on our economy. This will reduce the cost of preparation and provision.

The coming stage is a stage of an overall rectification and adaptation, and we are a country known for its ability to adapt. This has even become one of the characteristics of our strength and the success of our experiment. We, undoubtedly, have the necessary qualifications which enable us to move on to the society of production and self-sufficiency, and we will achieve this, God willing.

May God bless you, grant you success, and guide your steps. And say, work, and Allah will surely see you work and also His messenger and the believers. [Koranic verse]

God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Birri Discusses Reconciliation With Hizballah
NC2811162588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Commenting on a possible reconciliation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Amal leader Nabih Birri said:

They do not want any reconciliation. They see reconciliation as a slogan which they raise to abort every nationalist plan. Their objective now is to abort the organization of the brigades of the national army in Lebanon, Beirut, and the Suburb.

Birri reiterated the necessity of handing over the assassins of the three [Amal] leaders. Amal, he said, would then be prepared to discuss all issues.

Referring to [Maronite Patriachate] Bkirki's moves, Minister Birri expressed hope that the optimistic atmosphere, which some are trying to spread, is genuine.

He said that the entry in the game of the names of presidential candidates is only an attempt to circumvent the U.S.-Syrian agreement. He said that what is happening is merely an attempt to (?revive) the corrupt regime. Minister Birri emphasized that a charter or constitution for a new Lebanon is required.

Fadlallah Threatens Amal Movement, Syria
NC2811193788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting diplomatic source, BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY reports that Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual leader, met with Hizballah leaders last night and briefed them on Syria's intentions toward Hizballah and that country's attempt to hold the Lebanese card entirely in its hands.

Fadlallah said that this card will not be completely in the hands of the Syrians if they do not also hold the hostage card.

Fadlallah added: Therefore, to this end the Syrians sought to cause trouble between us and the Amal Movement so that they could then reimpose an end to the fighting and thereby prove to the Western states that, first, they are the influential people in the areas they occupy and, second, that the hostage issue is linked with them and not others.

Fadlallah further said: Iran alone holds the card of the hostages in Lebanon. The fate of the hostages is dependent upon Iran's relations with the states to which they belong.

The rulers of Damascus have no business with these hostages at all. Moreover, the senior Iranian officials have, through their diplomats, made it clear to the Damascus rulers that, after today, Hizballah will not be a fragile stick [maksar 'asa] in their hands.

The Amal Movement and, subsequently, anyone who supports it, even if they are the Syrians themselves, will pay a high price for any Amal provocation against Hizballah.

Iran's Khamene'i Sends Message to Hizballah
NC2911084088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] After visiting Ba'labakk twice last week to inquire after the health of Hizballah scholars and officials, and to denounce the cowardly attempt on their lives, brother Marvi, Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus, visited Hizballah leaders in Ba'labakk yesterday.

He handed them a message from His Eminence 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his message, the Iranian president congratulated the leaders on their safety after the plot engineered by agents and enemies. The message says: The plot to attack a number of Hizballah leaders in Lebanon has, once again, uncovered the wickedness of the motives of the enemies of Islam and Muslims. It shows, more than ever, that it is necessary to be cautious.

The message goes on to say: As we thank the almighty for the failure of this attempt, the defeat of the enemies of God, and the safety of the mujahidin in Lebanon, we extend our congratulations and greetings on your safety, dear brothers. In the meantime, we must express regret for the clashes which took place lately and led to fighting among brothers in Lebanon.

The message adds: Muslims in Lebanon are threatened by enemies from all directions. There is a pressing need for them to unify their stands. This unity must take priority over all other objectives. Knowing our brothers in Lebanon, we expect this unity to be achieved. We are certain that no sectarian personal, or political interests will take priority over this desired unity.

Khamene'i continues: The Shi'ite blood which is being shed by Shi'ites makes the heart of the leader of the age bleed. May we perish for his sake. This blood makes our heart bleed, while it pleases Israel, the Lebanese Forces, and their allies.

His eminence asked: Why do some people give in to vile political or personal motives, shed the blood of friends, and please the enemy?

Khamene'i concluded: I reiterate my support for the faithful brothers who make it a supreme goal to defend Islam and Muslims against Israel and America. I once again congratulate you on your safety, dear brothers.

I renew my appeal to you to end clashes among Shi'ites. This appeal is addressed to all parties concerned. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Syrian Forces Arrest 300 Gunmen During Raids

NC2811171988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A Syrian officer has informed REUTER that his forces have arrested approximately 300 gunmen and have confiscated quantities of weapons during raids on houses and hideouts in the areas of Al-Musaytibah, Al-Nuwayrah, Hayy al-Lija, Burj Abu Haydar, and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

Meanwhile, the Syrian military command has renewed its orders to its men to fire at gunmen immediately when they appear. This follows the collapse of six cease-fire agreements since the fighting started.

'Calm' in Beirut, Suburb; Syria 'To Interfere'

NC2811190988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Calm continues to prevail throughout Beirut and the southern suburb in the wake of the Amal-Hizballah clashes that have taken place over the last few days. The Syrian Arab forces are working to stabilize the calm by deploying patrols throughout the streets and neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, following his return from Damascus, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud warned the situation in Beirut and the southern suburb will return to normal at any cost.

In the meantime, a source close to the Syrian command in Beirut has revealed that Syria is determined to interfere radically to put an end to the Amal-Hizballah fighting.

The same source added that President Hafiz al-Asad has decided to personally follow-up the issue of the fighting.

'High Tension' in Suburb Area Following Clash

NC2811200188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] High tension prevails in the Al-Ghubayrah area in the southern suburb in the wake of the violent clashes which took place there between Hizballah and Amal Movement this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Syrian occupation forces removed the bodies of four Amal members, which were discovered in the Al-'Azm Building in Al-Musharrifiyah today.

Syrian Plans To Resolve Beirut Situation Outlined

NC2911080088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A normal situation has been restored to all areas where clashes took place over the past few days. Exchanges have resumed between security officials and the Syrian military command, which will step up its measures in the residential areas of West Beirut and the southern suburb. The ferocious fighting that broke out in these areas left 32 people dead and well over 100 others wounded.

According to security sources, the campaign to disarm the militias in Beirut will resume today, particularly in the Al-Musaytibah, Hayy al-Lija, Burj Abu Haydar, Al-Awza'i, and Al-Janah areas. Several gunmen were arrested and quantities of arms and ammunition were confiscated yesterday.

A Syrian security source has noted that the storming operations in search of arms will continue over the next few days. He added that the operations will cover all Beirut areas, even those which were not affected by the clashes. The source affirmed that a plan, drawn up by the Amal Movement and Hizballah for the control of the security situation in the southern suburb, will be implemented under Syrian supervision soon.

It dictates that all shows of force, except for those on the contact lines, be eliminated, that all kidnappings be halted, and that all violators be handed over to the Syrian Army.

The Syrian forces have erected roadblocks in Al-Musaytibah and in the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy's cultural advisory office, and have instituted foot patrols in all areas to quell any show of force. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers in Beirut, visited Minister Nabih Birri 2 days ago. He also held talks with Hizballah leaders.

He told them that the Syrian command has issued clear-cut and firm instructions for the control of the situation and an end to the anomalous situation.

Citing a source close to Syrian circles in Beirut, AFP reports that Syria is determined to intervene in a radical manner to end the Amal-Hizballah dispute. AFP adds that President Hafiz al-Asad has decided to assume this task personally, and that Damascus intends to hold talks with officials from the two warring factions and force them to conclude a political agreement.

Meanwhile, REUTER has cited political sources as saying that the meeting will also be attended by other Shi'ite leaders and that the discussions will not only concern reconciliation, but will also deal with the general political situation in Lebanon.

Group To Avenge Death of Armenians in Azerbaijan
NC2911070588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia [ASALA] has issued a statement in Beirut saying it intends to avenge the blood of innocent Armenians slaughtered in Azerbaijan.

The statement, in Armenian, emphasizes that ASALA will also retaliate for the millions of Armenian martyrs who were slaughtered by the Turks at the turn of the century.

The ASALA statement notes that Nagorno-Karabakh, which was annexed to Azerbaijan despite the fact that the majority of its population is Armenian, has no future within the bounderies of this Republic. The statement calls on all Armenians to use every means to defend their existence.

It should be recalled that ASALA usually distributes its statements in Lebanon, where some 200,000 Armenians reside.

'Repeated' Israeli Flights in South 28 Nov
NC2811171588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A maximum state of alert is reported among the Palestinians living in camps near Sidon, following repeated sorties by Israeli warplanes in the south this afternoon.

Arab League's Klibi Comments on Damascus Talks

JN2811143388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus today following a 2-day visit to Syria. During this visit, he held talks with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on a number of major Arab issues, headed by the Lebanese crisis.

The secretary general informed Syrian officials about the results of his tour of the Arab capitals to crystallize an Arab action formula to help Lebanon. Klibi made a statement to our radio in which he said:

I was pleased to visit Damascus again. As usual, my talks were very positive. They stemmed from Syria's eagerness to perform all that is necessary to maintain Lebanon's unity, identity, pan-Arab inclinations, and independence. Undoubtedly, the outcome of the Arab moves will have great importance in supporting this basic aim on the Lebanese and Arab levels.

I learned that the current Arab inclination focuses on the holding of an extraordinary summit for the Arab League's Council in Tunis at the ministerial level.

As for the problem of Lebanese representation in this conference, the current inclination is to keep Lebanon's seat vacant, as a compromise solution. The conference will form a special ministerial committee that will visit Lebanon and hold talks and consultations with all the Lebanese parties.

Departs 28 Nov

JN2811135588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus at 0945 today, concluding a 3-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He was also seen off by the directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments in the Foreign Ministry and the commissioner general of the offices for the boycott of Israel.

PRC Official Pays Visit With Delegation

Meets With Khaddam

JN2611191488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at 1800 today received the visiting PRC parliamentary delegation under Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress. The PRC ambassador to Damascus and Shakir Sa'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly, also attended. They discussed regional and international developments as well as bilateral ties.

Confers With Al-Asad

JN2711154488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1100 today received Liao Hansheng, vice chariman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and head of the Chinese parliamentary delegation currently visiting the country, and members of the delegation. People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Liao Hansheng conveyed to the president the greetings of PRC President Li Xiannian and the Chinese leadership. The president accepted them gratefully and conveyed similar greetings to the Chinese president, leadership, and friendly people. The talks centered on the situation in the region, international events, and bilateral relations.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2711200688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Liao Hansheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus this evening following a visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah; Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and foreign relations committee; a number of People's Assembly members; the Assembly's secretary general; the PRC ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

Liao Hansheng made a statment to a SANA correspondent in which he lauded the outcome of his visit to the country, describing the visit as successful and fruitful. He pointed out that during his visit he held talks with senior Syrian officials. These talks were crowned by his meeeting with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He said: All these meetings and talks were extremely cordial, particularly our meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad today. We were much impressed following the meeting.

He added: The Syrian people are very close friends of ours. We are convinced and confident that relations of friendship between our two countries and peoples will be further promoted and consolidated.

Afghanistan

Soviet, Mujahidin Representatives To Meet

BK2911124288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP)—Soviet and Afghan resistance representatives are to meet in the next few days to discuss a ceasefire and setting up an interim government in Kabul, Afghan rebel and diplomatic sources here said Tuesday.

The meeting would be the first direct talks on the future of Afghanistan between the Kremlin and the Afghan rebels, or mujahidin, since the Soviet intervention in December 1979.

Amir Da'ud, an aide to Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the seven-party Afghan rebel alliance based in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan, said Tuesday that talks could take place in the Saudi Arabian cities of Jeddah or Riyadh, or Paris.

The mujahadin delegation would include Mr. Rabbani, Sigbahtullah Mujadeddi, the leader of the moderate Afghanistan National Front who is to take over the rotating presidency of the Afghan alliance next month, and a representative from each of the seven parties, Mr. Da'ud said.

A diplomat said a date and venue for the talks had not yet been set, adding that "significant developments" were expected over the next few days.

The diplomat added that Yuliy Vorontsov, the newly-arrived Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, had left the Afghan capital recently.

A spokesman for the seven-party mujahidin alliance said later Tuesday that the meeting had been postponed "for a few days" but that it would be held in Jeddah.

Informed sources said the talks are part of the peace process pursued by the United Nations for resolving the Afghan conflict.

U.N. officials have been shuttling between Kabul and Islamabad by special plane three or four times a week and are in frequent contact with mujahidin leaders, Mr. Vorontsov, Afghan President Najibullah, Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan as well as the U.S. Ambassador here Robert Oakley, the sources said.

Five of the seven members of the Peshawar-based resistance alliance appear favorable to speedy talks with the Soviets, mujahidin sources in the Pakistani city said.

Yunis Khalis, head of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami Khalis group, is hesitant about entering into discussions with the Soviets, while Rasul Sayaf of the pro-Saudi Ettehad-e Eslami is against talks before the completion of a U.N.-negotiated Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan scheduled to end February 15.

Mr. Vorontsov has said he would like to see a ceasefire soon and the start of a peaceful settlement before the second phase of the Soviet troop pull-out begins.

A Peshawar newspaper, THE FRONTIER POST, said Tuesday that the talks would open within 48 hours in Jeddah. Mr. Mojadeddi said Tuesday that he would leave for Jeddah soon.

The mujahidin have consistently demanded direct talks with Moscow, but until now the Soviet Union has said that only the Soviet-backed Afghan Government in Kabul could negotiate with the resistance.

Mujahidin and Soviet representatives met in the Soviet Embassy here Saturday to discuss the return of Soviet troops taken prisoner by the guerrillas. The rebels said they had discussed other issues, but this was denied on Monday by Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov.

The mujahidin say however that they would not release their Soviet prisoners, which Moscow puts at 313, unless they obtained political concessions.

Mujahidin Agree To POW Swap With Soviets

BK2911132488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 29 Nov 88

["Resistance communique"]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels have agreed to release four Soviet prisoners-of-war for 100 rebels captured by Soviet forces during the nine-year-old war inside Afghanistan, a resistance communique said Tuesday.

The mujahidin agreed to the exchange at their first direct meeting with Soviet Embassy officials here Monday, it said.

According to Soviet officials, the mujahidin are holding 313 Soviet POWS.

The two sides also agreed to continue discussions on the issue, the communique said.

Najibullah Speaks on National Reconciliation
LD2711214988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Speech by President Najibullah given at the fourth full session of the High Commission on National Reconciliation held 26 November at the Foreign Ministry Storay Palace—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed members of the High Commission on National Reconciliation, compatriots, friends, brethren. More than 22 months have elapsed since the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation. [passage omitted] The experience of the past few months since the conclusion of the Geneva accords has revealed that there are two diverse approaches toward these accords:

On one hand, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have earnestly been carrying out all their commitments, and on the other hand, the Pakistani militarists and the U.S. Administration have been perpetrating blatant and gross violations of these accords.

This has prepared the ground for the extremist elements and organizations in Pakistan to continue hostile activities against Afghanistan, including the continued existence of extremists' military bases; the existence of ammunition depots and caches and the transfer of some of these depots to the border regions; efforts to dispatch and transfer more weapons inside Afghanistan; the Pakistani Armed Forces' participation in the extremists' subversive activities in Afghanistan; the influx of military advisers; the continuation of activities and hostile propaganda showing the situation in Afghanistan in a distorted manner; the provocation and encouragement of the extremists to continue the war; and the creation of obstacles to the return of Afghan refugees.

All of these actions are not only a blatant violation of the Geneva accords, but they are also contrary to the fundamental principles of international law.

It is clear to everyone that the Geneva accords were signed in order to restore peace in Afghanistan and resolve issues between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Soviet Union and the United States are the guarantors for the implementation of these accords.

The Afghan people and world public opinion were hoping and thinking that peace could be restored in Afghanistan after the signing of Geneva accords. They should have thought this way, because the accords directly linked the two sides of the issue: Pakistan's noninterference on the one hand, and the withdrawal of the Soviet forces on the other hand.

However, it has been seen that after the commencement of the Soviet withdrawal, Pakistan intensified its interference, and the extremists broadened their activities. This situation shows that one side, that is, Afghanistan and Soviet Union, are observing the accords. Why then has the situation intensified after the signing of the agreement? That is, if Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are observing the accords, then the question arises: Why has the situation intensified after the signing of the accords?

Obviously, the extremists, supported by the Pakistani militarists, are taking advantage of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from a number of the country's provinces. No one can say that the war would have intensified even if Pakistan had observed the Geneva accords.

It is interesting that the Pakistani militarists only expect one thing from the Geneva accords: the withdrawal of the limited contingents of Soviet forces. If this were so, then why did Pakistan, as party to the accords, and the United States, as a guarantor, sign the accords? If the withdrawal of the limited Soviet units alone was the issue, then this could have been (?done) by an understanding between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Why did the Government of Pakistan take part in the Geneva accords process for 6 years? What was the need for such an international document to be signed with all these endeavors and good offices of the United Nations? It is clear to all and to the countries of the region that the Geneva accords are a collection of agreements to which the signatories have committed themselves and which they—all the parties—are bound to implement.

The best proof of this is the resolution passed by the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, which seriously asked that all participating parties, without reservation, observe the content and spirit of Geneva accords and earnestly apply them in practice.

At the same time, we must see what the position of the opposition is regarding all our peace-seeking measures for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy in the country and to the Geneva accords, the rational consequence of this policy. They have not yet presented any program aimed at restoring peace and ending the war and bloodshed in the country.

They are holding fast to their previous position, that is, continuing war and bloodshed. Instead of seeking ways for national reconciliation, as we have proposed, they are intensifying the situation. Thus they want to impose war on us.

By extended use of such weapons as rocket and economic sabotage, the extremists want to weaken the inhabitants' moral, destabilize the situation, and incite public opinion against the Afghan Government. If we take Kabul and Kabol Province as an example, after the period from 15 May to 5 November 1988, more than 750 civilians, including women and children, were sacrificed as a result of the extremists' inhumane actions, and more than 550 inhabitants were injured.

Even on the day of Muhammad's birth, peace be upon him, when the large gathering of the representatives of the Islamic countries and organizations was held in Kabul, the extremists added another crime to their evil history. On that day they fired a total of 460 rockets at Kabul, Qandahar, Samangan, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Logar, and Paktia Provinces, causing deaths and material losses. These are inhumane anti-Islamic actions, which the opposition calls jihad.

You can see such examples in the Konduz, Takhar, Konarha, Bamian, and other regions. The hue and cry of the mothers, children, and people of these provinces against the extremists is heard everywhere.

The extremists now have declared a jihad against each other in four provinces. Eyewitnesses coming from the provinces—surely you know about it—have said that the extremists have not left anything undamaged and have razed all public property to the ground. This is a sample of the government of the extremists.

Surely the people of Afghanistan have compared what the extremists want with the aims of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is good to have the touchstone of experience so that the [words indistinct] is betrayed. The question is asked about the real cause of the war in Afghanistan.

The opposition leaders believe the real cause of the war was the existence of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union and said if the Soviets left Afghanistan then peace would be restored. We notice that with the signing of the Geneva accords and the withdrawal of 50 percent of the Soviet contingents in line with the accords, the war has not ceased and Afghanistan's unilateral cease-fire did not receive a positive response. Not only have war and fratricide continued, but they have intensified.

Thus the cause of the war is something else, which was known right from the beginning. The extremists want to create a puppet government of Pakistan and its supporters. This government would be in Pakistan's service and divide the united land of the Afghans; ignite religious, national, and regional differences; and eventually jeopardize the country' independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty or weaken Afghanistan.

Therefore, when our country comes suffers aggression to this extent; when Pakistan's constant interference acquires new dimensions; when the financing and arming of the extremists continues and the Geneva accords are ignored, as a document of mutual noninterference in internal affairs; when the opposition is encouraged to seize power militarily; and when the policy of national reconciliation, the restoration of lasting peace, and the cessation of war and fratricide are rejected, then it is our indispensable and legal right to take measures to defend our national independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, and to ensure our national security.

We created demilitarized zones for the return of refugees, in serious observance of the Geneva accords, but the opposition amassed various kinds of arms, such as Blowpipes, Stingers, and long-range artillery and surface-to-surface missiles, which they used to intensify interference and continue the war.

So the enemy, disregarding all of our constructive measures, has chosen the military solution. However, we are confident that with the help of the Afghan people, we will draw the opponents to reconciliation and impose reconciliation on them. Therefore, we are supplying our Armed Forces with modern arms to enable them to defend with confidence the Republic of Afghanistan. It will be the same in the future.

This is in full compliance with our military doctrine, which has defensive characteristics. It should be clearly stated that supplying the Afghan Armed Forces with modern arms by no means contravenes or violates the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords. Our relations with the countries of world, including the Soviet Union, are based on our country's national interests in the limits of the accepted international and individual agreements.

Therefore, our legal intergovernmental cooperation can by no means be similar to the U.S. and Pakistan's financing and supplying extremist groups. Furthermore, not only is the suspension of the remainder of the limited Soviet contingents not against the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords, it is once again a call to the other side to observe the accords.

Esteemed members of the High Commission on National Reconciliation, Afghanistan has resolutely proposed and taken serious practical steps through constructive proposals and drives to accelerate, expand, and deepen the national reconciliation process. At the joint session of the Milli Shura, serious proposals were made to restore peace in Afghanistan.

These proposals were received warmly by the Afghan people, personalities, political parties, and peace-loving countries. Due to the importance of those proposals for the country's present and the future, I feel obliged to draw your attention to them:

1. The Security Council was to be approached concerning Pakistan's intensified interference in our internal affairs since the signing of the Geneva accords.

Therefore, we recently sent a message to the president of the UN Security Council requesting the UN Security Council to convene in order to assess the situation around Afghanistan and Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords.

2. Because Pakistan is still ignoring upon the agreement on the return of refugees, the Afghan Government is approaching international organizations and requesting that they force Pakistan to observe the agreements.

3. An international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and its secretary general should be convened to discuss the following issues:

—underlining of Afghanistan's neutral status;

—the establishment of a comprehensive program to aid in the socioeconomic enhancement of Afghanistan and the creation of a mechanism for its implementation;

—the provision of international guarantees for the defense of human rights, including political freedoms; and

—consideration of the demilitarization of Afghanistan, including collecting all weapons and delivering them to the producing countries for the purpose of preventing war and fratricide in the future.

4. A broad-based coalition, a neutral government acceptable to all parties interested in peace shouod be formed. This government would declare a cease-fire and monitor it. It invite all sides to negotiate and to hold talks, and to convene a peace conference. It would also provide the basis for holding a grand assembly and elections.

The formation of a broad-based government could create a dominant coalition of all political movements, which would objectively rely on the whole society. Only such a government can restore national unity and peace. So far as the taking of first steps toward forming a coalition government concerns Afghanistan, right from the beginning of the national reconciliation policy we took practical steps to form such a government.

This government includes individuals and armed groups of the opposition in national reconciliation commissions; peace assemblies with the participation of armed opposition groups; appointed representatives of the other side as district administrators and governors; coalition organs at various levels; establishment of the Milli Shura; and formation of the coalition government, consisting of members from the three parties and members from the former governments.

We proposed the formation of the broad-based coalition government so that all interested parties could participate in the ensuring of peace. No government can be acceptable to all Afghans unless it is formed with the aim of restoring peace in the country, unless it makes efforts to attain peace, and unless broad political forces take part in it, because our people demand and need peace. Peace is the core of all of our society's existing problems and should be held firm and should solve all other problems.

Notice that the extremists rejected our proposals on ensuring Afghanistan's neutrality and demilitarizing our country and took an unhealthy position. Their attitude is the manifestation of their interest in war and slaughter. When Afghanistan accepted demilitarization, the extremists should have responded immediately to it in a positive manner, provided they were interested in a political campaign, and particularly as they claimed to have the support of 90 percent of the people. One wonders whether this claim is correct. If so, then if there were no weapons in Afghanistan and elections were held, they should win the majority.

So why do they choose war? We tell you to remove guns from Afghanistan's mosques. On both sides, let no weapons exist in Afghanistan. Let the people of Afghanistan choose their government. It will be the obligation and duty of the other side to respect the Afghan people's choice and their will. Recently one of the most important of them, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, said he wants to seize power through elections. And we have the best formula for this.

Let us declare a cease-fire and convene a peace conference. To ensure this cease-fire we will call an international conference; arms will be removed from the country under international guarantees; we will hold elections; and then we will see who the people of Afghanistan elect and who they do not elect. [applause]

However, it is clear that the extremists do not believe in political struggle, because they only see military solutions to issues. This is a path with a dark and terrifying end, with no winner. Certainly those who think about a peaceful future for Afghanistan, and who believe in a peaceful political campaign and want the country's socioeconomic advancement not only respond positively to the Republic of Afghanistan's recent proposals but also work to implement them.

However, it is being demonstrated clearly that opponents are contemplating a government of their own liking. They do not take into account the existing political realities in the country, particularly the PDPA. They must understand that no one force alone, and without the PDPA's participation, can establish peace and national accord.

It is interesting that the extremists accused the PDPA of monopolizing power—now that the monopoly of power has been removed they themselves want this monopoly that is even denied by their allies.

Dear compatriots, the Republic of Afghanistan's principled position following the declaration of the national reconciliation policy has been supported in all international circles and gatherings. For instance, some time ago the international Islamic conference held on the birthday of Islam's prophet Muhammad Mustafa, which included important world Islamic personalities, demonstrated that contrary to the false Islamic claimants' allegations, Afghanistan is considered to be a credible Islamic society by the world.

At the gathering we declared that we are prepared to talk to the opposition, in Afghanistan or in any country, about their terms for ceasing war and ensuring peace. We are prepared to talk to the opposition about peace in Mecca where the Muslim Ka'bah is situated, provided Saudi Arabia agrees to host such a conference.

We choose this site so that we can attain the lofty goal of ensuring real peace in Afghanistan in the light of Koranic instructions and the prophet of Islam's sayings. This is the pleasure of God and his creatures.

Our proposal has been widely supported by Muslims in our country and other countries and by Islamic circles and personalities. The opposition also rejected this humanitarian and Islamic proposal. What can our people say to those who refuse to accept an invitation to the God's house for peace talks? The answer is clear.

Moreover, we have noticed the results of Afghanistan's efforts to solve the situation around Afghanistan and their positive reflections in the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministerial conference in Nicosia and during debates at the UN General Assembly's 43d session. The practical honesty of all of Afghanistan's measures to solve the situation around Afghanistan and improve the country's situation, including enforcement of the Geneva agreements, led to the approval, without a vote, of a unanimous resolution on Afghanistan.

This is in contrast to the past 10 years, when there were long debates on the resolution regarding Afghanistan. And in contravention of previous years, this time the resolution's drafters included not only Pakistan and some other countries, but it was also prepared with the understanding and participation of all UN members, including Afghanistan.

Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the resolution and considers it to be an effective step toward a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

We recently witnessed the important visit by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to friendly India. The Soviet-Indian joint communique, which supported the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, shows their concern about the consequences of the obstructionist policies of those forces which violate the Geneva accords.

The communique requested encouragement for the national reconciliation process and implementation of the Geneva accords. The Soviet Union and India asked the UN secretary general to begin the task conferred on him by the UN resolution passed by the General Assembly. The Soviet Union and India consider the convocation of an international conference under UN auspices to be necessary.

The Republic of Afghanistan cordially thanks the Soviet Union and India for their realistic position on ensuring peace and security in the region and in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Message on Adoption of Constitution

LD2911072288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 28, BAKHTAR—Dear brothers and sisters.

I take great pleasure in congratulating the entire people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of Afghanistan. A year ago the Loya Jirgah, as a lofty expression of the will of the people of Afghanistan, adopted the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The adoption of the Constitution brought about fundamental changes in the political system in our country, the Afghan leader said, in a message released on the occasion of the first anniversary celebration of the Constitution.

A parliamentary system has been established in our country. The election to the National Assembly was held in secret ballot, in a democratic atmosphere. In this election the delegates to the House of Representatives and the Senate were elected and the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan started on its work.

In accordance to Article 99 of the Constitution, both houses adopted comprehensive and democratic rules of procedure for organizing their activities. In these rules of procedure, the National Assembly on the one hand has kept the parliamentary traditions of the country and on the other has paved the ground for the wide scale activities of other parties and political forces in the country. Therefore our National Assembly has become the most proper place for national reconciliation and coalition in our country, the message emphasized.

In accordance to Article 101 of the Constitution the prime minister designate, presented the platform of the internal and foreign policy of the government and the composition of the new government to the lower house in the first session of the legislative body. The lower house gave the vote of confidence to the government after a week long democratic debate.

The new government which has a coalition character, after obtaining the vote of confidence in accordance to the Constitution, started its activities on new methods of work, the message added.

Another important achievements of the Constitution of Nov. 29, 1988, of the Republic of Afghanistan, is the establishment of the Constitution Council. This organ has the duty to observe the conformation of laws, decrees, and international agreements with the Constitution of Afghanistan.

The Constitution Council have presented its views to the Presidency on a number of laws and decrees which were in contradiction to Constitution, and necessary steps have been taken for regulating them in accordance to the Constitution.

The creation of this new organ is considered as a strong guarantee for the observance of the Constitution in Afghanistan.

On the bases of this Constitution a pluralistic society has emerged in Afghanistan. Several political parties have been created and it shows that other political parties can be also created. We declare it once again that those political parties which have been organized outside the country can legally register in Afghanistan. The Constitution of Afghanistan allows them to do so.

After the Constitution, the Press Law of the Republic of Afghanistan came into force, a large number of weeklies and other publications received permission to be published and started their activities. The door is open for all parties, political forces, social organizations and all the citizens in Afghanistan in this regard. We are waiting for more newspapers, weeklies, and magazines to be published in our country. Greater freedom of the press is another achievement of our Constitution stressed.

Dear compatriots,

Our Constitution is the constitution of reconciliation. The draft of this Constitution was put to public, for ascertaining their views. The views of the experts were incorporated in the draft which was adapted by the Loya Jirgah. The Constitution has been drafted in a manner to meet the interest of all the people of Afghanistan including the opposition to consider it their own constitution. Therefore a broad-based and neutral government can consider this Constitution as a constitution for the future of Afghanistan.

Dear friends and compatriots,

This is for the first time in our history that we are celebrating this day as the day of the Constitution, and we hope that this act shall remain as an eternal tradition in (?our country) Afghan leader noted in his message.

Generals To Be Tried on 'Negligence' Charges

BK2811154888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 28 (AFP)—Three Afghan Army generals are to be tried on charges of negligence after mujahidin guerrillas captured cities or districts under their command, resistance sources here said Monday.

General Gul Agha, General Amir Muhammad, commander of northern Takhar Province, and General Hashim of northern Kapisa Province were summoned to Kabul last week for questioning, the sources said.

They said that the three had been accused of losing cities or districts under their command to Afghan guerrillas in the past few months and would be tried in Kabul on charges of negligence. They gave no date for the trial.

Gen. Gul Agha was held responsible for the loss of the northern town of Konduz in mid-August. Konduz remained under mujahidin control for several days before its recapture, according to official Afghan sources.

Gen. Hashim lost Mahmud Raqi, capital of Kapisa Province, in October and Gen. Amir Muhammad was defeated in Takhar's Khanabad District, the rebel sources said.

A brigadier of the Afghan Army would also be tried for the "disintegration" of a unit under his control responsible for the security of foreign guests and VIP's. Brigadier 'Ali Khan was in charge of the Nazm-e Khas Brigade which originally had 1,400 men, the sources said, adding that more than 800 of them had defected to the mujahidin, the sources said.

The sources also said that Afghan militiamen had recently surrendered two security posts at Konduz airport to the mujahidin.

They added that mujahidin guerillas had destroyed an Afghan Air Force jet last week at Shindand Air Base in western Farah Province.

Iranian Envoy Receives Protest on 'Hostile' Press

LD2811200488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning and handed a protest note from the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the intensification of hostile propaganda by Iranian mass media. The protest was delivered by the deputy director of the Second Political Department.

It was mentioned in the note that the Iranian authorities, (?engaging in slander) have overlooked the goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan regarding a neighboring country.

Moreover, by ignoring internationally accepted norms, observed by our country, they are distorting public opinion. They have obstructed efforts by the Afghan Government to create a suitable political atmosphere in the region. The Iranian authorities have been asked to refrain from continuing such irresponsible actions, which simply aggravate the situation.

Pakistani Charge Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD2811180588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In response to the persistent demands by the Afghan Government and the bereaved families who lost loved ones when Pakistan downed an AN-26 transport plane [words indistinct] the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul on 22 November informed the Foreign Ministry of his country's decision concerning the corpses return.

The Afghan Government asked the Pakistani authorities to allow an Ariana Afghan Airlines aircraft to transfer the corpses. Unfortunately, the Pakistani authorities have not yet replied.

At 1600 today the Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned again to the Foreign Ministry where he was given a note concerning permission for the flight. The note demands a prompt decision by the Pakistani authorities in this regard.

131st Letter Submitted to UN Mission

LD2811222088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 27, BAKHTAR—The one hundred thirty first note of the Republic of Afghanistan on six instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the note all-sided information on the consignment of lethal arms and ammunition from Pakistan to extremist groups in Afghanistan, which is in contravention with the provisions of the Geneva accords, are given.

It asks UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey its findings to the Afghan side and representative of the UN secretary general immediately.

Vice President Leads Delegation to Delhi Congress

LD2311073688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] A high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, headed by 'Abdurrahim Hatif, vice president of the Republic of Afghanistan, left Kabul this afternoon for New Delhi to take part in the 7th Congress of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, which will be held in Delhi.

The delegation was seen off in Kabul airport by Dr 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice president; lawyer 'Abdul Waheb Safi, chairman of the Constitution Council; the vice chairman and leadership delegation of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization; the deputy head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Indian ambassador in Kabul.

Holds News Conference

BK2711130288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The Afghan vice president, Mr 'Abdurrahim Hatif, has indicated that the Soviet forces may not completely withdraw from his country if Pakistan and the United States do not comply with the Geneva accords.

He said at a news conference in New Delhi today that if there is no peaceful solution, it would be up to Moscow and Kabul to reconsider the whole situation. Under the Geneva accord, Moscow has to completely withdraw its forces from Afghanistan by the 15th of February next year.

Welcoming the recent elections in Pakistan, the Afghan leader said if a popular government is installed in Islamabad it would be better than the previous military rule.

Cooperation Protocol With Armenian Company

LD2311074488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 22, BAKHTAR—A protocol of cooperation was signed between A.N. Trog Company of Armanian SSR and organisation of Peace Solidarity and Friendship of Republic of Afghanistan.

From Afghan side the protocol was signed by deputy of Peace Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of Afghanistan and of Armenian SSR side the chief of the said delegation.

On the bases of this protocol cooperation in various fields of commerce will be started between the two sides.

BAKHTAR on Soviet-Indian Joint Communique

LD2311153288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 23 Nov 88

["Commentary on Soviet-Indian Joint Communique"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 22, BAKHTAR—The joint communique of the Soviet Union and India which was released at the conclusion of the official and friendly visit of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has drawn the attention of the world public from various respects.

Among other things, the talks of the leaders of both countries and their joint communique reflect the political stand of the Republic of Afghanistan as well.

Both the Soviet Union and India supported the policy of national reconciliation and the strict realisation of Geneva accords and the UN General Assembly resolution on Afghanistan. The leaders of the both countries expressed

their concern regarding the continuation of interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan by certain forces in gross violation of Geneva accords.

In this connection, Mikhail Gorbachev in one of his speeches delivered in New Delhi said that the United States and Pakistan seem compelling the Soviet Union to abandon its commitment to the Geneva accords and stressed that this will bring about dangerous consequences.

Likewise, the Indian prime minister in a speech addressing the Indian Parliament on Nov. 22, said that the ever-increasing delivery of weapons to Afghan opposition is witnessing that the intervention by Pakistan into the internal affairs of Afghanistan has been changed to an open and direct intervention. Rajiv Gandhi emphasized that the Soviet Union and India are advocators of the full observance of Geneva accords.

Answering a question whether the Soviet leader has assured Rajiv Gandhi about the full withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan until February 15 as per Geneva accords, the Indian prime minister said when one side of the accords does not honour its commitments the other side should not honour it as well.

Rajiv Gandhi at the conclusion of Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India said to journalists that both India and the Soviet Union are supporting the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Geneva accords depend upon the strict and the honest observance of the accords by the United States and Pakistan. If the United States and Pakistan are continuing despatching the most modern weapons to Afghan extremists and the training and equipping the latter in the soil of Pakistan against Afghanistan the Geneva accords are losing its legality.

The United States and Pakistan should understand that the continuation of the violation of Geneva accords by them will lead to make the situation more tense in the Republic of Afghanistan and is going to jeopardize their credibility in the world. The responsibility of the contravention of the accords will also rest with the United States and Pakistan.

BAKHTAR Reports Recent Battle Successes

LD2811221588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0521 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 27, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in their mopping up operations carried out in Nangarhar, Qandahar and Farah Provinces crushed a number of armed extremists during the past twenty four hours. Tens of heavy armaments, several depots and hideouts of the enemies of the people were destroyed, an authorised military spokesman said here today.

Reports reaching from Qandahar say that extremists who were active in the Takhteh Pol and Anzarkai [placename as received] areas, Qandahar Province, were totally routed out by the Armed Forces. Four heavy machineguns, light armaments and hundreds of rocket fires came to the hand of the Armed Forces.

As a result of the mopping up operations of the Armed Forces in the Sultan-e Bakwah District, Farah Province, extremists belonging to the Gulbuddin band were entirely wiped out.

Internecine clashes which took place among the extremist groupings in the Lash-e Joveyn District, Farah Province, caused the deaths of 16 extremists a few days ago.

The city of Gardeyz came under 42 ground to ground extremist rocket attacks on Saturday. It was as a result of these attacks that several residential houses were either demolished or damaged.

General Staff Notes Rebels' 'Heavy Losses'

LD2911000288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A source at the Afghan Chief of the General Staff's operations center in Jalalabad reports that heavy losses have been inflicted on the warmonger extremists in the past few days in Nangarhar Province. During the mopping-up operation 105 extremists were killed and 70 others wounded. (?Eleven) recoilless guns, 7 missiles, and 3 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition, and arms and ammunition depots were totally destroyed.

Similarly, in operations carried out along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, crushing blows were inflicted on the extremist warmongers. The highway [words indistinct] has been opened for traffic. According to another report, 126 civilian and military vehicles drove along the road and our compatriots can move confidently along the highway.

According to another report, medals and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan have been awarded to those people who demonstrated heroism in defense of Gowshtah District, Nangarhar Province, against extremists attacks. Major General Zabihullah Ziarmal, head of the political affairs of the armed forces, spoke on the heroism of the Armed Forces stationed in Gowshtah District.

Maj Gen Muhammad Asef Delawar was present. Brigadier Mohmand, son of Fedows Khan, Muhammad Yasin, Haji Taj Muhammad, Maj Faridon, Masel Khan, Muhammad Hakim, Babrak, and Rahim Gul are among those who received awards.

According to a reliable source in the Afghan Armed Forces, Pakistani militia forces took part in the fighting along the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway in recent days. Similarly, the source says that Pakistan-based extremist

groups are carrying out subversive operations in Nangarhar with the support of Pakistan. The report says that the Afghan Armed Forces have high morale and combat readiness, have embarked on defense operations with much success.

A total of 129 people have been killed and 46 of the irreconcilable opposition were wounded by the Armed Forces in Jalalabad city. Eleven recoilless guns, 3 DShK's, 7 missiles, [words indistinct] tank mines and 9 antipersonnel mines were destroyed. Four mortars and two arms depots have also been destroyed.

Reports from Sarowbi say that as a result of the crushing blows of the Armed Forces, 30 extremists were killed and 16 others were wounded. One mortar and one recoilless gun were destroyed.

Recent 'Successful' Mujahidin Operations Detailed
BK2911062988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have carried out successful operations against the Kabul regime's forces in various parts of the country.

They launched attacks in Dasht-e Qal'eh area and captured eight security posts. Besides capturing 60 soldiers of the Kabul regime, the mujahidin have seized a large quantity of ammunition and three tanks. They attacked a military convoy in Baghlan Province and damaged five vehicles.

In an operation in Pol-e Khomri, they killed five soldiers of the Kabul administration and injured 16.

India

Police Disperse 'Angry Mob' in Kashmir
BK2911090888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Yesterday in Anantnag, in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, police dispersed an angry mob with tear gas and gunfire. People were protesting against the increase in the prices of essential commodities.

The mob stoned government buildings and vehicles, injuring policemen and many others. The police have arrested 20 persons. Srinagar radio did not say how many persons were killed and wounded.

Report on Kashmir Firing Said 'Absolute Lie'
BK2911093088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has described as an absolute lie Radio Pakistan's this morning news report that a number of persons were injured as a result of police firing on demonstrators at Anantnag town of Kashmir Valley yesterday.

An official spokesman told AIR Jammu correspondent that no such incident has taken place and the news broadcast by Pakistan Radio was an absolute lie and the figment of the imagination.

Unified Akali Dal Head Attacked by 'Terrorists'
BK2911084088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In Punjab, the Unified Akali Dal president, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, was attacked by terrorists near his native village Talwandi a short while ago.

While Mr Talwandi and his close associate were seriously injured, his two police bodyguards were killed. The injured have been admitted in Sidhar hospital. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot. Further details are awaited.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead an assistant subinspector of police and his friend in Santunangal village in Amritsar District late last night. According to police, three terrorists armed with AK-47 rifles took the inspector and his friend to his fields. They tied the two to a tree and shot them dead.

Foreign Secretary Menon Returns From PRC Visit
BK2711090288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, returned to New Delhi today from Beijing after finalizing arrangements for the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China next month. Mr Menon was accompanied among others by the information and broadcasting secretary, Mr G.K. Arora.

Moscow To Sell Delhi MI-35 Helicopters
BK2811160888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 28 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has agreed to sell India sophisticated MI-35 helicopters, a minister informed Parliament Monday without giving details.

Minister of State for Defence Chintamani Panigrahi, however, told the Lok Sabha, or Lower House, that Moscow had not offered to sell the export version of its MI-28 helicopter gunships. He did not specify whether India had finalized any deal for the MI-35, a combat helicopter.

The Soviet Union is India's biggest arms supplier and defence cooperation between the two countries was reportedly discussed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi here this month. Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov visited New Delhi in September.

Dhaka Offered Full Cooperation in Flood Control

BK2111041388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] India has offered full cooperation to Bangladesh in tackling recurring floods. The leader of an Indian delegation at the Indo-Bangladesh Task Force [on sharing of common rivers waters], Mr Naresh Chandra, told the All India Radio Dhaka correspondent that India is ready to share its experiences in water management, flood warning systems, building of embankments, and other related areas.

The 3-day meeting of the task force ended in Dhaka yesterday. Mr Chandra said the meeting identified areas for long-term cooperation.

SWAPO President Begins 3-Day Working Visit

BK2511043388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The president of the Southwest African People's Organization, SWAPO, Dr Sam Nujoma, arrived in New Delhi last night on a 3-day working visit. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Dr Nujoma said he will apprise Mr Gandhi about the struggle of the Namibian people for independence. He said India, as a member of the Nonaligned Movement and of the United Nations, has played an important role to solve the Namibian problems.

Dr Nujoma is to address the seventh congress of the Asian Peace and Solidarity Organization today. He will call on the president, the vice president, and the prime minister, and the external affairs minister. The visiting dignitary will also have a meeting with the African heads of missions in New Delhi tomorrow.

Dr Nujoma said that it was because of international pressure, including India, that Angola, Cuba, the U.S., and South Africa have reached an agreement under which Pretoria has accepted in principle to grant independence to Namibia.

Meets With Gandhi

BK2611132588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] India has again pledged its continued political, diplomatic, and material support to the people of Namibia after it becomes independent. This was conveyed by the prime minister to Dr Sam Nujoma, president of the Southwest African People's Organization [SWAPO] of Namibia, during their meeting in New Delhi today.

Later, talking to newsmen, Dr Nujoma expressed profound gratitude of SWAPO to the people and Government of India for the assistance rendered during the long struggle against the aggression by the racist regime of South Africa.

Iran

'Text' of Musavi's 24 Nov Letter to Khomeyni

LD2811210288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] In reply to the imam of the ummah's charter, today Prime Minister Musavi sent the following letter to Imam Khomeyni:

To the esteemed leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow continue:

With greetings, I thank you for considering me worthy to serve the live martyrs of the revolution, and I hope that in performing this great duty toward these dearest mementos of the sacred days of resistance, the truly relentless keepers of the lofty revolutionary aspirations in the country's future history. I may benefit from your kind blessings. Against all that they have sacrificed in elevating God's religion is there any service that could be considered more worthy of praise from the nation's great father and caring guide?

The government of the Islamic Republic is aware that this praise is aimed at the sincere efforts of the most unknown servants of the people, who having withstood the hardest living conditions, carried the heavy burden of fulfilling executive tasks. The government is also aware that this support is an asset to be used to assist the deprived and to follow the strong principles of the revolution. A caring, informed, and continous order in the government's actions is an asset which the employees—whether they realize it or not, whether they like it or not—need in order to carry out their tasks properly. This support will certainly not be a barrier.

I pray to God for a prolonged life for the esteemed leader, who is the dearest of the divine bounties for this God-fearing nation of ours.

[Signed] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Prime Minister

Khomeyni Says Majles Sole Legislative Power

LD2911114988 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT 29 Nov 88

["Imam Says Legislative Powers Shall Remain Only With Majles"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—In an open letter to the Majles (the Islamic parliament) here Monday [28 November] Imam Khomeyni said that any institution or council or government body which duplicates the legislative authority of the Majles will shortly be dissolved.

The imam who was responding to an inquiry by a group of nearly 100 deputies of the Majles said the creation of multiple bodies with the authority to pass laws was basically a wartime contingency aimed at removing the bottlenecks which from time to time hampered the proper operation of the government.

He said the war having now been over, the need for the existence of those bodies is not likely to be felt in the future, and that therefore the future course will be "according to the Constitution."

In their letter to the imam the group of Majles deputies had said that "the High Council in Charge of Matters of Expediency" (the controversial bills council) has now gradually developed into an integrated body not for debating controversial bills, but also for passing lawbills which are occasionally submitted to it by sources other than the Majles and by circumventing the ordinary channels.

They said continuation of the practice is likely to create contradictory laws and eventually turn the Majles into a superfluous body alongside the other bodies which duplicate its responsibility and authority.

The imam's letter is clear indication that the wartime powers vested in certain bodies will be shortly curtailed.

Khomeyni Appoints Representative to Bushehr
LD2311200988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Imam Khomeyni has appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam (Ebrahim Fazel Ferdowsi) the Friday prayer leader of Bushehr and representative of the imam to Bushehr. [passage omitted]

Carter's Appeal for Hostages' Release Rejected
LD2811173788 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Iran once again rejected a plea by a former US President to help release American hostages in Lebanon, this time through Majles Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Iran did not know who exactly the hostage-takers were, and the memory of nearly 300 Iranians killed in the US Navy's attack on an Iranian airliner, and other US actions against Iran during the war, was still too vivid, he said in reply to Jimmy Carter.

The Majles speaker also reminded that a group of Iranians were being held by pro-US Phalangists and the former US head of state had not made any mention of them or of the Lebanese who were being held by Israel.

"I read Your Excellency letter. I would like serious steps to be taken to rescue the hostages and to anything that would reduce the suffering of human beings," the Majles speaker said.

"But unfortunately the policy and attitude of US rulers is the main obstacle and basically the Americans have been held hostage by wrong US Government policies."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's reply to Carter's letter of 14 October follows Imam Khomeyni's rejection earlier this month of a similar plea from Carter.

"If we told you that the Lebanese might not accept our mediation, it would not be far from the truth," he said. "Because they have been forced to resort to such actions to restore their trampled rights and we cannot tell them to forget their indisputable rights. And in addition, we do not know who exactly is holding the hostages.

"Besides these, how can America expect us to intervene for its benefit in a case which has nothing to do with us while America continues its hostile policy against the Islamic revolution?"

He said the emotional scar left from the US Navy's downing of an Iran Air passenger plane with 290 on board last July was still fresh and the loss of Iranian life in US attacks on Iranian ships and oil platforms in the Persian Gulf as well as Washington's support for Iraq during the war had not been forgotten.

The US was still showing enmity towards Iran by blocking billions of dollars worth of Iranian assets and extending more credit to Iraq at a time when Congress and US doctors had confirmed the use of poison gas against the Kurds, he added.

"Why do you not point out the innocent Iranian hostages held by the Phalangists who are under your protection?" the Majles speaker asked and said if Carter had offered to use American influence to save Iranian hostages or free Lebanese prisoners in Israel then "there might have been an opening to save the American (hostages)"

"But for you Americans, it basically isn't important what happens to other peoples, especially those of the Third World." Another reason why other hostages had not been mentioned by Carter was that he was trying to "beg from the position of strength" instead of making a fair offer.

In a short, three paragraph letter to the Majles speaker, Carter hoped that the American hostages can be released in Lebanon as soon as possible.

He indicated that this was necessary to pave the way for improved bilateral relations. "It is very important that friendly relations be reestablished between Iran and the United States," Carter said.

A copy of the hand-written message was made available to IRNA. The letter with the head of an eagle printed on top of the page, began simply with "to Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani" and ended with "Sincerely, Jimmy Carter."

The text was almost exactly the same as Carter's letter to Imam Khomeyni, who in a reply through his son Ahmad, denied any link between the Islamic Republic and hostage taking and said there could be no reconciliation between Tehran and Washington.

"We at the Carter Center will be willing to help in any appropriate way. Our center is completely non-partisan in all its activities," the former US President said.

But Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while denying Iran was "thirsty" for renewed ties with the US, said Carter's claim that he was a neutral American with a humanitarian mission was unacceptable.

"Because first of all, your (Democratic) Party is the majority in both Houses of Congress and secondly, you personally were responsible for blocking Iranian assets in America."

Reportage on Visit of FRG Foreign Minister

Arrives in Tehran 27 Nov

LD2711210788 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28. IRNA—West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived here at the head of a political-economic-cultural delegation, Sunday night.

Genscher is here on a two-day official visit. This is the second visit of the West German foreign minister to Iran after the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD2811143188 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the Foreign Ministry here this morning.

This two sides exchanged views on mutual political, economic and cultural ties as well as international cooperation and regional issues.

Expressing pleasure over his Tehran visit, the German foreign minister said he hoped it would help improve bilateral relations.

Velayati also said he was happy over the "daily consolidation" of relations between the two countries "on the basis of mutual respect." He said Tehran and Bonn particularly enjoyed extensive ties in industrial, trade and cultural areas.

He also said West Germany could play an effective role in Iran's post-war reconstruction. The details of this cooperation, he added, would be discussed between relevant officials.

Velayati said the Islamic Republic attaches importance to its cooperation with West Germany in the international organizations and hopes this would expand in the future.

What certain Western mass media and circles have raised over the past few days as human rights violations in Iran is politically motivated, Velayati said.

"Islam is the greatest supporter of mankind and human rights," Velayati noted. "The Islamic Republic will never allow others to interfere in its internal affairs under the false pretext of supporting human rights."

"We will never make a deal over Islam, the Islamic Republic and our people's interests for anything," Velayati stressed.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD2811185388 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—There are ample grounds for cooperation between Tehran and Bonn, President 'Ali Khamene'i told the foreign minister of Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) today. "The potential is yet to be exploited fully and favourably," he added.

President Khamene'i expressing satisfaction with the trend of mutual relations called on the West German Government to step up efforts towards peace.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher responded that the objective of his visit was to further expand Iran-FRG ties.

Genscher who arrived here last night heading a political, economic and cultural delegation announced Bonn's support for full enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 seeking an end to Iraq-Iran war.

He also conveyed FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker's "warm greetings" to the Iranian president.

Confers With Musavi

LD2911105788 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today voiced optimism over the political future of the Persian Gulf but at the same time he did not rule out the possibility of the outburst of "new crises" particularly in view of "Baghdad's open violations of international conventions."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will do its best for the precise implementation of the (the U.N. Security Council) Resolution 598 but at the same time we will keep our (military) preparedness," he told the visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Genscher reiterated his government's support for the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the full execution of Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate end to the eight-year-old Iraq-Iran war. He said his country would continue its cooperation with the U.N. chief even next year when its membership at the Security Council expires.

The German minister expressed hope his country could cooperate with Iran in post-war reconstruction projects. He attributed the improvement of Tehran-Bonn ties to implementation of long-term projects for mutual cooperation.

Musavi welcomed expansion of Tehran-Bonn economic ties as well as Germany's willingness to help Iran to carry out reconstruction projects. "We would like to promote our trade ties with due attention to expansion of domestic production and completion of infrastructural economic projects," he told Genscher.

Musavi also briefed Genshcer on Iran's priorities in the reconstruction phase and stressed the positive impact "proper knowledge about the realities of the Islamic revolution and further contacts between the two sides could have on expansion of mutual ties."

Genscher arrived here at the head of a 30-man political, economic and cultural delegation Sunday night on a two-day official visit.

Signs Agreement

LD2911114488 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) signed a cultural, educational and scientific agreement, on Tuesday [29 November].

The agreement, signed by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, envisages expansion of mutual cooperation in the fields of higher education, radio and television, cinema, news, books and sports. It also includes granting of scholarships in educational and training courses.

Genscher described the agreement as an indication of the two countries' determination to promote bilateral cultural, economic and political ties.

Larijani on Hostages, 'Purge'

LD2911111988 Hamburg DPA in German 0930 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran (DPA)—Iran intends further to expand its policy of opening up to Western Europe, but not with the United States, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani told German journalists at a news conference on Tuesday.

Larijani, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, who has previously established most of the contacts with Bonn, appered to make the resolution of the hostage issue dependent on certain conditions. On the one hand, he announced to journalists who had traveled to Tehran in the entourage of Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher the selecton of a number of hostages in Lebanon—irrespective of their nationality—on which his government would concentrate.

On the other hand, Larijani said that the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon, who are supported by the West, had been holding four Iranian hostages for the past 4 years, and that it was Tehran's policy to see all the nostages released for humanitarian reasons.

The deputy foreign minister praised the "prominent role" which Genscher had played in support of Iran "in very difficult times." Economic relations would be expanded, with the issue of foreign credits to Iran no longer being rejected for ideological reasons. This was now only "a technical question" and had nothing to do with his country's independence. Furthermore, the question of whether and how future state visits beetween Bonn and Tehran could be arranged had already been discussed.

Larijani rejected Western criticisms of alleged human rights violations in Iran and said that after the investigations by the UN special envoy these would turn out to be unsubstantiated. A different issue was the punishment of the communist Mojahedin-e Khalq, who were "criminal elements." This was Larijani's reply to questions concernng an alleged new bloody purge in Iran.

Kuwaiti Charge Delivers Message for Velayati

LD2911122188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran met with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati and handed him a message for Foreign Minister Velayati from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahamd al-Jabir Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In his message Shaykh Sabah stressed the expansion and strengthening of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait, and expressed appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's declaration that it is ready to help combat the locust problem in Kuwait.

South Korean Official Delivers Note to Musavi

LD2311210888 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The premier received a message from his South Korean counterpart Yi Hyon-chae today dealing with bilateral relations.

Submitting message to Hoseyn Musavi, Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Sok-kyu expressed Seoul's keenness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic.

Peace and security is possible only when the world is ready to observe international and humanitarian regulation, replied Musavi.

Meanwhile, the Korean official who arrived here yesterday held also talks with deputy premier for political affairs 'Alireza Mo'ayeri the same day.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets With Larijani

LD2311224588 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 23 Nov 8

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Polish expertise and technology was offered for Iran's reconstruction projects by visiting First Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski today.

In his meeting with minister of housing and urban development today, Majewski expressed Warsaw's keenness to expand economic, scientific and technological cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Serajeddin Kazeruni responded by calling for the formation of a Tehran-Warsaw joint permanent commission to follow up reconstruction cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Polish official who arrived here Monday, had a meeting with Iran's Foreign Ministry Deputy for Euro-American affairs earlier in the day.

Besides bilateral ties and other issues of mutual interest, the two discussed ways of effectively banning chemical arms, which Iraq used on an extensive scale against both Iran and it own Kurdish people.

Majewski terming as a "wise decision" Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 for ending the 8 year old Iraqi war, stressed Warsaw's full support for the peace talks.

In response, Mohammad Javad Larijani briefed the Polish official on Iraq's procrastination of the peace talks and said "Baghdad neither respects international laws nor does it want peace and stability in the region."

Elsewhere, he dwelt on Iran's foreign policy principals and asked for a quick withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. "Afghan Muslims choose their own form of "lawful" government. Larijani concluded.

Discusses Technical Cooperation

LD2411235588 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24 IRNA—Industrial-technical cooperation was the topic of discussion between Polish deputy foreign minister and Acting Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji Wednesday. The two also discussed Iran's non-oil exports to Poland.

Jan Majewski said Poland can help Iran in post-war reconstruction projects including power stations, sugar and tool-making factories and sale of fishing trawlers. Majewski arrived here November 21 heading a delegation.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD2411235688 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Polish first deputy foreign minister and his entourage were seen off at Mehrabad International Airport by Foreign Ministry Deputy Mohammad Javad Larijani today.

Earlier in the day, Jan Majewski presented Premier Hoseyn Musavi a message from Polish Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski inviting him for an official visit to Warsaw.

Musavi thanking the Polish envoy expressed hope of visiting Warsaw at a suitable opportunity.

During his 3-day stay here, Majewski also held talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Housing and Urban Development Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni and Acting Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

The two countries agreed to set up a joint commission to follow up issues of mutual interest.

Majles Speaker on Possible 'Political' Murder

LD2711133388 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Majles Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has indicated that the killing of a prominent politician and former health minister may have been politically motivated and urged investigators to work hard in solving "this suspicious murder".

"A satanic clue is evident in this case," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a brief statement on Dr Kazem Sami who died from severe stab wounds Friday night.

Evening newspapers, KEYHAN and ETTELA'AT also published articles saying a political motive behind the killing was certainly a possibility.

Speaking in the opening of today's Majles session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the killing as a "dastardly act of murder" and sent his condolences to the victim's family.

"I call on the disciplinary, intelligence and security forces to work hard to identify the elements (involved) and the nature of this suspicious murder," he added.

Dr Sami, a brain specialist, was stabbed several times in the head, chest and arms by a man posing as a patient at his clinic Thursday. According to one newspaper report an eyewitness said the attacker was also carrying a Colt handgun and a handgrenade. Police are continuing their investigations.

Dr Sami, an Islamic intellectual, was a well-known opponent of the Pahlavi regime and worked closely with such figures as the late Dr 'Ali Shariati and Ayatollah Taleqani.

After the Islamic Revolution he joined the provisional government of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan as health minister and later became representative from Tehran in the first Majles Elections.

The daily KEYHAN said the murder was an act of "terror" and in the present circumstances in the country "it certainly could not be seen as an act without political intentions and aims."

Referring to future visits to Tehran by the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, West Germany, France and Italy, it said "The enemies of the revolution cannot tolerate the Islamic Republic of Iran being presented as a politically stable power in the world." They are thus trying to isolate it in the international community by "creating an atmosphere of distrust" towards Iran's internal security, the paper said in an article signed by M. Razzazi.

The daily ETTELA'AT published an article by an old friend of Dr Sami, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Hojjati Kermani, who said Sami's death, whether it was a "treacherous conspiracy" or the work of a "lunatic mental patient", was a "very depressing tragedy with social, political and security aspects."

Meanwhile, the doctor's regulatory board, which was headed by the victim for several years after the revolution, issued a statement condemning the murder and called on all the disciplinary, intelligence and judicial authorities to try and arrest and punish the perpetrators.

The utmost effort of the authorities in solving the murder was necessary "in order to protect the professional security of Iranian doctors from further danger and from the whims of criminal individuals or groups," the statement added.

Montazeri, Mohtashemi Comment

LD2811222688 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Arrests have been made in connection with the brutal murder of Dr Kazem Sami, as Imam Khomeyni's designated successor called for a determined effort in order not to give "legitimacy to chaos and the sense of public insecurity."

Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said a number had been detained three days after the repeated stabbing of former health minister Dr Sami by a lone attacker at his clinic in Tehran which led to his death Friday night.

"A number of clues have been discovered in this connection and suspects has been arrested," he said in an interview aired by Channel One television news Sunday night.

He said police detectives were investigating leads found at the scene of the crime. The case was being handled by a special task force comprised of the police department's intelligence and detective officers as well as other relevant bodies.

The announcement of the arrests came as Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri issued a statement to Dr Sami's father, expressing sorrow over the "martyrdom of your committed, combatant and serving son" and called for swift action to punish those involved.

He said colonialist and anti-revolutionary agents were trying to destroy combatant and committed individuals who could serve the revolution and strive for the country's independence.

But he stressed: "Any kind of indiffence and infirmity, consciously or unconsciously, towards this malicious trend will inevitably be in line with the goals of the enemies of Islam and the country's independence and will possibly give legitimacy to chaos and intensify the sense of public insecurity."

The public expectation was that the perpetrators of this crime would be "firmly and decisively" identified and punished, Ayatollah Montazeri said and called on officials not to overlook" the negative impact of these suspicious and dangerous trends."

Earlier the cabinet praised Dr Sami, Iran's first health minister after the Islamic revolution, for his services and urged firm action by security and disciplinary forces to arrest those involved.

The interior minister said in his televised interview that he suspected the involvemment of anti-revolutionaries, namely the Mojahedin-e Khalq (monafeqin).

Dr Sami was "very active (in working) with the revolution and the institutions of the Islamic Republic, especially in recent months," Mohtashami said.

Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and articles published in KEYHAN and ETTELA'AT newspapers directly and indirectly hinted that a political motive may have been behind the murder.

F-14 Pilot Training Course Ends in Esfahan
LD2411113288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The third postgraduate course for rear-cabin F-14 fighter pilots has ended with a ceremony in the Shahid-Baba'i flight zone in Esfahan. It was attended by Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces. According to the Central News Unit, the ceremony also was attended by the governor of Esfahan Province, by Ideological and Political Department officials, and by the region's military and security commanders.

The commander of the Shahid-Baba''i flight zone described the operations of the Air Force over the 8 years of holy defense. Then he referred to the efforts of the Sahid-Baba'i pilot college, adding: At present, this base is completely ready to train all the country's pilots.

Then the commander of the Shahid-Baba'i flight zone fighter squadron presented a report on the training activities of the 81st Fighter Squadron of F-14's, adding: Up to now, we have had 10 pilot training courses of various levels. He continued: This course, which is the second [as heard] postgraduate course for rear-cabin F-14 fighter pilots, is also among the activities undertaken by this flight zone. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i on Fighter Aircraft Construction
LD2811141688 Tehran IRNA in English 1352 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i said Sunday Iran hoped to build fighter planes with the efforts of Iranian experts.

"It is expected that fighter planes would be built inside in the country by capable and innovative hands in the not too distant future," he said in a speech to commanders of the Havaniruz, the Ground Forces air support unit.

The president said the Havaniruz forces had gained considerable experience during the war and in a reference to the maintenance of US-built military helicopters throughout the war, he said the military proved that "nothing is impossible."

"The industrial research organization, which was created from within the Army, showed that by relying on innovation and creativity we can make anything possible. This also applies to the manufacture and maintenance of helicopters."

Khamene'i said that from now on forces like the Havaniruz should concentrate three aspects: training, self-sufficiency and greater spiritual strength.

The Havaniruz forces, operating US-made Bell, Chinook and Cobra helicopters, played a key role in transporting troops, destroying enemy armoured vehicles and positions during the war. The aircraft were kept in flying condition despite a Western arms embargo.

In recent years the defence industries have built a number of aircraft, including a helicopter, named Shabaviz.

Khamene'i Attends Basij Week Eve Ceremony
LD2611143888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] On the eve of Basij Week, the great assembly of the commanders of the 20-million strong Army was convened with Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] commanders, President Khamene'i, and representatives from world liberation organizations attending.

At this assembly President Khamene'i spoke and praised the selflessness and bravery of the Mobilizations forces during the 8 years of imposed war, and said: We must provide the means necessary to defend the revolution and identify and eliminate any conspiracies waged by the enemy. Our nation ought to be constantly ready to defend the revolution, the system, and the country's frontiers. Mobilization forces must continue their work with strength. He added: The organization of Mobilizaton forces must be continued, because this institution, with its direct ties with the IRGC, should constitute the real force for defending the revolution.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council emphasized the need for unity among people and said: Unity will block the enemy's attempts at infiltration, because the enemy will definitely try to revive its lost hopes. It is therefore necessary for us to maintain our unity. He then pointed to the process of the Iran-Iraq talks and said: During the last few months we have realized that the Iraqi regime is not behaving like a government interested in a comprehensive peace, and it does not display honesty.

In conclusion he said: Due to the internal problems the Iraqi regime faces and its lack of political credibility, it is unable to rekindle the fire of war. We consider the possibility of the war's resumption as slight. It is a mistake, however, to think that our Armed Forces and the people should not maintain their combat alertness.

After Mr Khamene'i concluded his speech, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of the Lebanese Tawhid Movement, made a speech in which he condemned all of the conspiracies of the global arrogance and asked all Muslims of the world to remain united so that they can stand strong before the global arrogance. He praised the Islamic revolution in Iran, considering Imam Khomeyni as the singular leader of the Islamic world, and said:

You are obedient to the orders of Imam Khomeyni. Those who oppose the supremacy of the jurisconsult seek to establish a rule of arrogance. However, they must know that the power of Islam will never give this opportunity to the global arrogance and its associates. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Addresses Basij Forces in Karaj
LD2811173888 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—The president today predicted reconstruction on a grand scale to the extent "Iran becomes a model of spiritual and material bliss to the whole world".

Hoj. 'Ali Khamene'i addressing a large gathering of basiji forces in Karaj on the 3rd day of the Basij Week dwelt on military, economic, cultural and other plots of global arrogance against Islamic Iran. "All Europe including the Western and Eastern blocs ganged up with Arab reactionaries to impose the Iraqi war on Iran," he added.

Global arrogance was united in its sinister bid to wipe out Iran's budding revolutionaries and uproot Islamic culture, said Khamene'i and added, Iran's Muslims powerfully blunted the conspiracy and emerged "more stable and stronger than before."

The president warned against being lulled into a false sense of security and called for boosting the country's defensive power since "hostile centres" have been spending lavishly of late to exert more pressure on the Islamic revolution.

"We are looking forward to commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution (Feb. 11) this year so magnificently" that it will further roast the enemies in their fire of jealousy, he concluded.

Musavi Urges Curtailment of Expenditures
LD2811204688 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Gorgan, Mazandaran Prov., Nov. 28, IRNA—Despite the Iraqi war groundwork for some major projects was firmly laid and investment continued uninterruptedly, remarked the prime minister Monday.

"Some 60 major projects are nearing completion, which will soon change the country's economic status," added Hoseyn Musavi.

Citing steel industries as an example, he said success will be achieved in all fields if people work dedicatedly even after the war.

The premier who arrived in this Caspian Province (Northern Iran) earlier in the day said it is inevitable for a country which was at war to reduce the national consumption after the conflict is over. He urged economizing of the country's expenditure.

Musavi also called for healthy changes in the country's executive system.

Commerce Ministry Eases Import Restrictions
LD2311120188 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The Commerce Ministry Wednesday announced more items the private sector can import and sell outside the pricing regulations set by the government.

Acting Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji said the policy was within the framework of allowing greater private sector participation in foreign trade, approved by the high council in charge of reconstruction policy.

The measure to go into effect from Saturday and valid for two years include agricultural products and equipment, medical equipment, and stationery goods.

This is the second time in less than two months that import restrictions for a limited number of scarce goods have been eased.

"With the implementation of this plan the price of goods in the market will come down and on the other hand it would create greater economic calm and stability," Vahaji said in a press conference.

The goods covered by the deregulation include rice, poultry and animal feed, seeds and pesticides, fertilizers, fishing gear, notebooks, pens and pencils, books, various publications, educational films, and medical equipment./ "Other goods will be added to this list and an announcement will be made soon," Vahaji said.

In the meantime, the government will continue to provide basic goods through the rationing system and "the move does not affect the government's obligations in this respect," the official added.

As for quality of imported goods he said they must be up to standard and the related ministries would not need so-called trading cards but must pay relevant taxes and customs duties. To remove any problems the ministry will open up an office which will receive proposals to be considered in future measures, he added.

Meanwhile it has been decided to allow passengers leaving the country to take up to rials 50,000 worth of handicraft items, instead of the previous rials 30,000 he said.

Iraqi 'Violations' Reported to UN Group

LD2411110088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] The military staff headquarters overseeing the implementation of Resolution No 598 reports that the Iraqi forces violated the cease-fire on the Iran-Iraq border on 13 occasions from 10 November through 13 November.

Among the Iraqi violations are the deployment of fresh forces, the construction of new fortifications, the positioning of armored equipment, and suspicious movements all along the Iran-Iraq border. These violations have been reported to the forces of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] stationed in Iran.

'Jowshan-1' Naval Maneuvers Continue

LD2811133788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] On 28 November, the anniversary of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the second large-scale naval maneuvers this year, by the name of "Jowshan-1", began at 1330 today in the northern Persian Gulf region, in the presence of [Naval Commander] Commodore Malekzadegan and a number of officials and authorities.

According to the Central News Unit, the maneuver which is being undertaken in order to increase the combat readiness of naval personnel will include group exercises with the participation of all naval units, as well as sea-landing helicopters, rangers, marines, skin-diving teams from the first and second naval regions, and fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force.

It will consist of various exercises such as tactical and naval operations, refueling at sea, firing, towing by naval and aerial units, minesweeping operations, amphibious operations, rocket-launching at predesignated targets, night attacks on warships, and skin-diving operations.

Further Details on Exercises

LD2811210688 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Bushehr, Nov. 28, IRNA—Operation Joshan 1 launched by Iran's naval units started in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf at 09:30 GMT Monday.

The maneuvers coincide with "Navy Day" (Nov. 28), and the codename commemorates the brave crew of the frigate "Joshan"—the first vessel to exchange fire with U.S. naval units in the Persian Gulf and the first to sink an Iraqi warship, during the initial days of the war.

Timed with the exercises are the mine-sweeping operations due to restart Tuesday morning in this part of the Persian Gulf.

The manuevers designed to test the Navy's efficiency includes mock combat, troop landing, shooting predetermined targets such as "intruding ships and warplanes", amphibious exercises and parade of all participating vessels and aircraft.

An operational commander told IRNA the 4-day Joshan "sea games" involve units stationed at the 2nd maritime zone in the northern part of the Persian Gulf.

Fueling at sea, frogmen's triggering of depth charges, torpedoeing pre-determined targets and an evacuating drill were carried out today, he added.

Commander of the 2nd maritime zone Rear Admiral Shafaqi had said Sunday operation Joshan-1 will greatly boost the combat readiness of naval units under his charge.

Malekzadegan Interviewed

LD2811140488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Interview with Naval Commander Rear Admiral Malekzadegan by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the occasion of 28 November, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy Day, we are in the presence of Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, the commander of this force. [passage omitted] Captain, will you first tell us if you have any message on Navy Day and for the epic-makers of that force during the 8 years of their sacred defense work?

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the 8 years of the sacred defense work, numerous incidents and epics have occurred in the ever-pure waters of the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] This week, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy is in the process of launching huge maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Would you please tell the listeners about the aims and motives in launching these maneuvers?

[Malekzadegan] As you are already aware, these are our second naval maneuvers in the current year. The aims of the maneuvers are to strengthen the combat ability of the force, maintain its preparedness, and display the Navy's strength at sea. These maneuvers are differentiated from previous maneuvers by being launched in the northern section of the Persian Gulf. In practice, a large number of our naval units which were engaged in various naval operations throughout the war will participate, as will some flight units, a number of our hovercraft, and also a special force comprised of our artillery men and rangers.

We have planned various exercises for these maneuvers which include landing of forces on the coastline, the comprehensive escort of units, night combat readiness,

logistic exercises, and so forth. I do not have time to expound on all these exercises, but on the whole there will be about 30 various exercises which, with the help of God, we hope to carry out in these maneuvers, just as we managed to exhibit our naval strength in previous maneuvers.

[Correspondent] The Islamic Republic of Iran is constantly seeking to achieve and maintain genuine peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region. In your view, under what conditions would we be able to achieve and maintain lasting peace in this region?

[Malekzadegan] Security and a durable peace will be established only when foreign countries remove their combat units from the sensitive and critical Persian Gulf region and stop interfering in the navigation and other issues which may occur in the Persian Gulf. I am positive that the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as it proved in the past, is capable of establishing total security in the region and maintaining naval integrity in the regions inside or even outside the Persian Gulf.

Therefore, there is absolutely no need for the foreign forces to enter this region for the purpose of maintaining peace, as the countries in the region are fully capable of establishing this security.

We have repeated on many occasions that we hope for the implementation of a common policy in the region, of a common decision-making. There is absolutely no need for the presence of foreign frigates in the region. The Islamic Republic's Navy has been the harbinger in this—we will not be waiting for their departure, and will carry out our duties, as instructed by the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and will maintain total security in communication lines, on our lines, on our islands, for our oil tankers, and any other duty which is prescribed. We have the capability and, if necessary, we are even willing to assist other countries in the region.

Paper on Preserving Foreign Policy Principles

LD2111121788 Tehran IRNA in English 1147 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is reviewing its foreign policy, and rightly so, the daily ABRAR said but called on policy makers not to set aside Islamic and revolutionary principlers.

"In any case the past has passed and today we have reached a point where we must take new steps in establishing relations with world countries, based on prudence," the paper said in its editorial. "But this is not to say that we should lose ourselves in going over to these countries and open all doors to them, without having in mind our priorities and our Islamic and revolutionary standards."

The Persian daily emphasized that the idea that Iran should "stretch a begging arm to anyone and any country" to end its isolation must be cleansed from the minds of foreign policy makers.

Many countries only change the appearance of their policy and make their way to Iran as "wolves in sheep skin" it said referring to Imam Khomeyni's reply to a recent message from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

ABRAR added: "For this reason we must always have this fact in mind that relations and dependence are two different things and at this stage establishing ties with any government cannot be sanctioned."

"We have a duty to start a new trend in foreign policy by taking measured steps and learning from bitter and sweet experiences of the past so that we not only move in the direction of non-alignment with the superpowers but also rediscover our revolutionary position in the international fora."

Pakistan

Commissioner Confirms Presidential Poll 12 Dec

BK2811143688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The presidential election will be held on 12 December. This was announced by Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon.

The nomination papers will be received on 6 December and their scrutiny will take place on 8 December. The nomination papers can be withdrawn by 10 December. The members of the National Assembly, the Senate, and provincial assemblies will make up the electoral college for the election of the president. The chief election commissioner will perform the duties of the returning officer and the chief justices of high courts will be the presiding officers of the four provincial assemblies. The polling will be held through secret ballot. Presiding officers will send to the returning officer the results of the elections to be held under their supervision in every provincial assembly and the counting of votes will take place in the presence of candidates or their competent agents. The votes cast in favor of each candidate in each provincial assembly will be multiplied by the total seats of the assembly which has the minimum number of seats and then the product will be divided by the total seats of that particular assembly where the voting has taken place. The resultant number will be added to the votes cast in the parliament in favor of every candidate.

The election result will be announced by the chief election commissioner and a notification will be issued the same day.

Radio Pakistan correspondent Abdul Hamid says that according to the Constitution, the presidential election must take place within 30 days of the general elections for the National Assembly. For the office of the president, a candidate must be a Muslim; he must not be less than 45 years of age; and should be eligible to be elected as a member of the National Assembly.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1305 GMT on 28 November adds:"Former chairman of the Senate, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, took over as interim president in line with the Constitution after President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was killed in a plane crash on August 17. It is not known whether Mr. Khan will be a candidate. None of the major political parties have indicated their candidate for president."]

NAWA-I WAQT: Benazir Chosen as Prime Minister

BK2811163288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 28 (AFP)—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has decided to appoint Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto as the country's next premier, a newspaper reported here Monday.

The daily NAWA-I WAQT citing reliable sources said the president announced his decision to PPP's newly elected member of the National Assembly and close adviser of Ms Bhutto, Aitzaz Ahsan, at a meeting here.

The president told Mr. Ahsan that power would be transferred to the PPP, it said, adding that soon after the meeting the new PPP member of the assembly drove to Ms Bhutto's residence and informed her of the decision.

A federal government spokesman announced Sunday that the president would appoint a new prime minister Thursday. The daily said Ms Bhutto would be provided all protocol escort facilities from Monday. There was no official confirmation of the report. The newspaper said the PPP had decided not to file a petition against the delay in nomination and transfer of power.

The PPP won 94 seats, the largest block of any party, in National Assembly elections on November 16 but failed to gain a majority to the 205-member assembly.

President Calls National Assembly Meeting 30 Nov

BK2811153288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The president has called the meeting of the National Assembly in Parliament House, Islamabad, at 0900 on Wednesday [30 November] when the newly elected members of the National Assembly will take their oaths. The National Assembly Secretariat has set up information centers at Islamabad and Rawalpindi for the newly elected members. The members have been requested to bring their national identity cards with them.

Accord on Parliamentary Coalition Reached

BK2911081488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 29 (AFP)—Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has reached an agreement with the Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM) for a parliamentary coalition in the next government, the local press reported Tuesday.

The accord, reached Monday, would bring 13 seats to the PPP, which secured 94 seats out of 205 but failed to achieve an absolute majority in general elections held November 16. The additional seats would give PPP a clear majority and enable it to form the government. The details of the accord, which was not yet signed, were not available, the press said.

The MQM, whose candidates contested as independents, emerged as the third largest group in the elections. The two parties had been negotiating in southern Karachi for the past several days to form a coalition central government, the reports said.

The eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance secured 55 seats in the elections, and its leaders were also busy negotiating with independents and other parties to muster support to form a government.

PPP Claims 102 Seats in National Assembly

BK2811164988 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[All numbers as heard]

[Excerpt] The Pakistan People's Party has claimed that its strength in the National Assembly has gone up to 102. The PPP had won 93 seats out of the 215 seats for which elections were held. Four members representing the Christian community and four others who had contested non-Muslim seats have joined the party. One independent has also joined it. In addition, all three members of the Baluchistan National Alliance have also pledged support to the PPP. The party is now short of only three seats to have a clear majority of 108 in the house with 215 elected members. The president of the Baluchistan National Alliance had a meeting with the president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan. This was part of a series of meetings with political leaders called by President Ishaq Khan. An official spokesman said in Islamabad last night that Pakistan's president has decided to announce the appointment of the prime minister on the 1st of December. This decision of the president followed extensive consultations with leaders of the political parties and groups represented in the National Assembly. [passage omitted]

Election Commission Withholds Results for Review
BK2411162888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Names of candidates returned to 200 constituencies of National Assembly have been officially notified by the Election Commission today. A spokesman of the commission told Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad this evening that results from five constituencies have been withheld for final decision in view of complaints. [passage omitted].

Wali Khan Comments on Ishaq Khan's Moves
BK2611161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The Awami National Party [of Pakistan] president, Mr Wali Khan, who is in Delhi [attending the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization Congress], has alleged that the acting president, Mr Ishaq Khan, is involved in bargaining with the PPP and IDA [Islamic Democratic Alliance] to retain his position. Mr Khan made it clear that his party would not join the government, but would support it from outside on merits.

Yaqub Khan on Afghan Issue, Relations With USSR
BK2811163988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has again expressed Pakistan's desire for an amicable and just settlement of the Afghan issue in keeping with the spirit of the Geneva accords. This he said in a representation to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs in Islamabad today. He said Pakistan wanted friendly relations with all countries of the world, particularly its neighbors.

The foreign minister added that it was Pakistan's desire to further improve its friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

Sri Lanka

JVP Militants Announce 'Curfew' in South
BK2811140088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Colombo, Nov 28 (AFP)—Anti-government militants announced curfews in southern Sri Lanka Monday in a bid to disrupt political meetings by the ruling party presidential candidate, residents said.

The Sinhalese group Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) urged people to stay indoors and ordered shops, banks, offices and private establishments to close in Galle District and warned that violators of the curfew would be punished, residents said.

One local resident contacted by telephone said the JVP (or People's Liberation Front) action was to protest against campaign meetings by the United National Party (UNP) presidential nominee Ranasinghe Premadasa. Mr. Premadasa is also the prime minister.

"Only a few government buses driven by the Army could be seen on the road. The military forces opened some shops in the morning. But, they closed by noon after JVP threats," the resident said.

The country's majority Sinhalese population live in the south of the island which is a hot bed of JVP activity and the group is continuing a violent campaign to force the government to step down and stage early elections.

Police said JVP activists shot dead a UNP supporter and a communist party trade unionist in the region early Monday, while a government statement said some 400 suspected JVP members were arrested during house-to-house search operations in Colombo suburbs under the cover of a curfew over the weekend.

In another development, a human rights group here warned that the country was being "slowly dragged towards anarchy and civil war" and urged "peace loving citizens to rally and demand sanity and compassion."

The Colombo District Citizen's Committee said it had documented some 63 deaths "at the hands of the security forces" since November 9. Several others had disappeared, the group charged.

"We are on the brink of a civil war. It is a pity there isn't enough public outcry about tough laws and sweeping powers given to security forces," committee President Prins Gunasekara said.

Faced with increasing work stoppages and JVP threats, the government has given wide powers to troops to shoot demonstrators on sight and empowered police to dispose of such victims without inquests.

Mr. Gunasekara said 460 human rights applications for the production of missing or arrested persons in court had been pending since January and added that 15 of them were made in the past two weeks.

Another human rights group in the southern coastal town of Galle alleged Saturday that 56 people were killed by government forces in the three days ending Friday in their district alone.

The country's influential Buddhist clery in a statement issued Monday called on security forces to act with restraint saying that the Armed Forces had been accused by the public "for some of the inhuman deeds."

Delhi: 9 Killed, 400 Arrested in Colombo Sweep

BK2911031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 9 suspected subversive elements have been killed and 400 others taken into custody, following intensive search operations carried out by the security forces in the suburbs of Colombo. The search operations were conducted during the 31-hour curfew, which ended yesterday.

A government communique in Colombo claimed last night that a hundred of those arrested have been identified so far as being directly involved in violence. In the south of the country, five suspected subversives were killed on Sunday night, when the security forces fired at persons who attacked the patrol. Another suspect was killed at Gampaha. One gram sevika [village-level official] was shot dead in Galle District. At least two others, including a state transport bus driver, were killed in separate incidents.

Further on Searches, Arrests

BK2911114288 Colombo International Service in English 1945 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Text] The security forces conducted a house-to-house search for terrorists during the 48-hour curfew clamped on the AGA's [Assistant Government Agents] divisions of Hunugala, Kaduwela, Homagama, (Kasbeyaba), Piliyandala, Kurana, and Muratuwa.

The people of the area extended their fullest cooperation to the security forces and identified over 400 terrorists who were hidden in safe houses in these areas. They were identified by the people as those who issued death threats to the people, forcibly closed shops and brought hardships to them. Of these captured terrorists nearly 100 of them have been positively identified as the killers and hard-core terrorists. A large number of arms and ammunition have been seized. This operation is still proceeding.

Acting on the information received from the public of the Kadugannawa area, the security forces arrested four terrorist suspects and recovered arms, ammunition and knives.

The power supply situation remains more or less unchanged. Northern Anuradhapura and the Polonnaruwa District, certain areas of Dehiwala, Mount Lavinia, Maharagama, Buralesgomuwa, Ambalangoda, Galle and Matara are still without electricity. Repairs are in progress but terrorists are still attempting to disrupt power supply. Some of those who were attempting to sabotage power lines have been dealt with under the special emergency regulations.

India Requests Security for Indian Nationals

BK2611033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has requested the island government to provide adequate security to Indian nationals working there. In a statement in Colombo yesterday, the High Commission expressed shock at the killing of three Indian nationals at a sugar factory in southeastern Sri Lanka on Thursday [24 November].